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ABSTRACT

This volume provides biographies on sports figures. Each entry offers at least one picture of the individual profiled, and bold-faced rubrics lead to information on birth, youth, early memories, education, first jobs, marriage and family, career highlights, memorable experiences, hobbies, and honors and awards. Each entry ends with a list of easily accessible sources designed to lead students to further reading on the individual and a current address. Obituary entries are also included, written to provide a perspective on the individual's entire career. Sports figures are indexed by: general index (names, occupations, nationalities, and ethnic and minority origins); place of birth; and birthday (month and day). This volume includes biographies on: Tom Brady (football player); Tara Dakides (professional snowboarder); Alison Dunlap (bicycle racer); Sergio Garcia (golfer); Allen Iverson (basketball player); Shirley Muldowney (drag racer); Ty Murray (rodeo cowboy); Patrick Roy (hockey player); and Tasha Schwikert (gymnast). (SM)

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ED 476 368

Vol. 7

Biography Today

Profiles of People of Interest to Young Readers

Featured in this issue . . .

Tom Brady
Tara Dakides
Alison Dunlap
Sergio Garcia
Allen Iverson
Shirley Muldowney
Ty Murray
Patrick Roy
Tasha Schwikert

Tasha Schwikert

Allen Iverson

Patrick Roy

Shirley Muldowney

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Biography Today

Profiles of People of Interest to Young Readers

Sports Series

Volume 7

Cherie D. Abbey
Managing Editor

Omnigraphics

615 Griswold Street • Detroit, Michigan 48226

Cherie D. Abbey, *Managing Editor*
Kevin Hillstrom and Laurie Hillstrom, *Staff Writers*
Barry Puckett, *Research Associate*
Allison A. Jones and Linda Strand, *Research Assistants*

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Preface

Welcome to the seventh volume of the **Biography Today Sports Series**. We are publishing this series in response to suggestions from our readers, who want more coverage of more people in *Biography Today*. Several volumes, covering **Artists, Authors, Scientists and Inventors, Sports Figures, and World Leaders,** have appeared thus far in the Subject Series. Each of these hardcover volumes is 200 pages in length and covers approximately 10 individuals of interest to readers ages 9 and above. The length and format of the entries are like those found in the regular issues of *Biography Today,* but there is **no duplication** between the regular series and the special subject volumes.

The Plan of the Work

As with the regular issues of *Biography Today,* this special subject volume on **Sports** was especially created to appeal to young readers in a format they can enjoy reading and readily understand. Each volume contains alphabetically arranged sketches. Each entry provides at least one picture of the individual profiled, and bold-faced rubrics lead the reader to information on birth, youth, early memories, education, first jobs, marriage and family, career highlights, memorable experiences, hobbies, and honors and awards. Each of the entries ends with a list of easily accessible sources designed to lead the student to further reading on the individual and a current address. Obituary entries are also included, written to provide a perspective on the individual's entire career. Obituaries are clearly marked in both the table of contents and at the beginning of the entry.

Biographies are prepared by Omnigraphics editors after extensive research, utilizing the most current materials available. Those sources that are generally available to students appear in the list of further reading at the end of the sketch.

Indexes

A new index now appears in all *Biography Today* publications. In an effort to make the index easier to use, we have combined the **Name** and **General Index** into one, called the **General Index**. This new index contains the names of all individuals who have appeared in *Biography Today* since the series began. The names appear in bold faced type, followed by the issue in which they appeared. The General Index also contains the occupations, nationalities, and ethnic and minority origins of individuals profiled. The General Index is cumulative, including references to all individuals who have appeared in the *Biography Today* General Series and the *Biography Today* Special Subject volumes since the series began in 1992.

The Birthday Index and Places of Birth Index will continue to appear in all Special Subject volumes.

Our Advisors

This series was reviewed by an Advisory Board comprised of librarians, children's literature specialists, and reading instructors to ensure that the concept of this publication—to provide a readable and accessible biographical magazine for young readers—was on target. They evaluated the title as it developed, and their suggestions have proved invaluable. Any errors, however, are ours alone. We'd like to list the Advisory Board members, and to thank them for their efforts.

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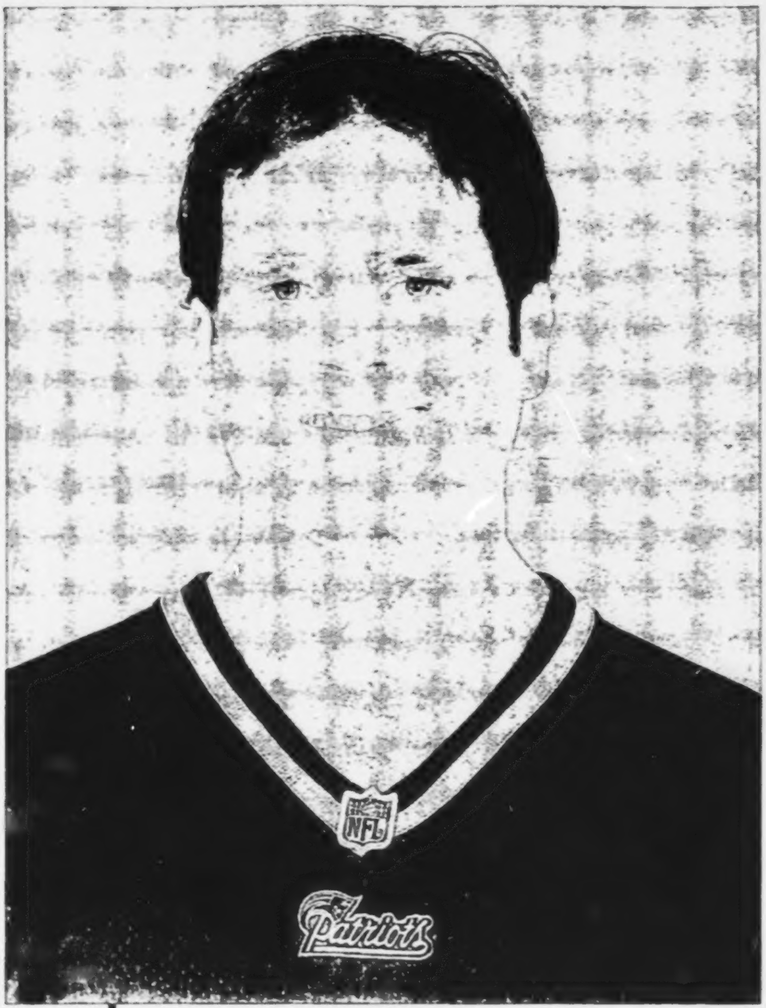
Our Advisory Board stressed to us that we should not shy away from controversial or unconventional people in our profiles, and we have tried to follow their advice. The Advisory Board also mentioned that the sketches might be useful in reluctant reader and adult literacy programs, and we would value any comments librarians might have about the suitability of our magazine for those purposes.

Your Comments Are Welcome

Our goal is to be accurate and up-to-date, to give young readers information they can learn from and enjoy. Now we want to know what you think. Take a look at this issue of *Biography Today,* on approval. Write or call me with your comments. We want to provide an excellent source of biographical information for young people. Let us know how you think we're doing.

Cherie Abbey
Managing Editor, *Biography Today*
Omnigraphics, Inc.
615 Griswold Street
Detroit, MI 48226
www.omnigraphics.com



Tom Brady 1977-

American Professional Football Player with the New England Patriots
Most Valuable Player of the 2002 Super Bowl XXXVI

BIRTH

Tom Brady Jr. was born on August 3, 1977, in San Mateo, California. He was the youngest of four children born to Tom Brady Sr., who has worked as an investment banker and as a business consultant, and Galynn Brady. He has three older sisters, Maureen, Julie, and Nancy.

YOUTH

Brady grew up in San Mateo, California, a suburb south of San Francisco. He was the youngest member of an athletic and energetic family. Both of his parents participated in a variety of sports and community activities, and all of his sisters excelled in school sports. Years later, he recalled that his sisters were so competitive and strong-willed that he was rarely able to win control of the television remote control for more than a few minutes at a time. His sisters would torment him in other ways, too. "They would dress me up," Brady recalls. "They'd have dolls around the house and make me play with them."

> *Brady recalls attending one San Francisco 49ers playoff game when he was only four years old. "I remember crying the whole first half because my parents wouldn't buy me one of those foam No. 1 fingers. But getting to watch those teams with Joe Montana and Steve Young, that's when I decided I wanted to be a football player."*

Brady shared his family's love for competition from an early age. He often came home dirty and sweaty—but happy—after playing football or baseball for hours with his friends from the neighborhood. He also developed a fierce loyalty to the San Francisco 49ers, who were one of the major powers of the National Football League (NFL) for much of his childhood. He particularly loved going with his family to 49ers games, where he could watch his hero, San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana, and later, Steve Young. Brady even recalls attending one playoff game when he was only four years old. "I remember crying the whole first half because my parents wouldn't buy me one of those foam No. 1 fingers," he said. "But getting to watch those teams with Joe Montana and Steve Young, that's when I decided I wanted to be a football player." (For further information on Montana, see *Biography Today,* Jan.1995, and Update in 1995 Annual Cumulation; for further information on Young, see *Biography Today,* Jan. 1994, and Update in 2000 Annual Cumulation.)

Brady didn't play organized football as a young child. His parents did not let him play Pop Warner football during his elementary school years because of concerns that his growing body might suffer injuries that would hamper his physical development. But they did allow him to play Little

League baseball, and he quickly gained a reputation as one of the region's most promising young ballplayers.

EDUCATION

Brady attended all-boys' Catholic schools throughout his childhood and youth. When he entered Junipero Serra High School as a freshman, his parents finally relented and allowed him to try out for the school's football team. He made the team as a quarterback, but did not attract much public attention during his first two years. In fact, he continued to be better known for his play on the baseball diamond than the football field.

As a high school junior, however, Brady won the starting quarterback job on the varsity team. He guided the Serra offense for the next two seasons. During this period, his quarterbacking abilities improved dramatically. One key reason for this improvement was that Brady's body began to mature into that of a true athlete. For instance, a local college football coach named Tom Martinez, who ran a summer program for high school football players every year, recalled that Brady's physical appearance changed dramatically as he got older. According to Martinez, he changed from "kind of a little chunky guy"to a tall young man who was suddenly throwing the football "like a man"in the space of a single year.

An even greater factor in Brady's development, though, was his dedication to hard work and self-improvement. The young quarterback worked out with weights or on passing drills for three or four hours every day, and he never tried to avoid the more unpleasant aspects of athletic training. In fact, he seemed almost to enjoy the challenge. "He was very dedicated," confirmed one of his high school teammates. "I remember we used to do this drill, five dots we called it. It was to improve your footwork and man, we hated it."But one day, the teammate dropped by Brady's house and received quite a surprise. "I couldn't believe it—he had set up the drill at his house. He was doing it at home. I'll never forget that, but that's what he was always about: trying to do something better."

Brady's high school football team did not win any championships during his junior or senior seasons. He and his teammates were hammered by scores of 66-6 and 44-0 in consecutive games during his junior season, and the team posted mediocre records of 6-4 (six wins and four losses) and 5-5 during his junior and senior years. But most observers recognized that the team would have posted much poorer marks had it not been for their lanky quarterback, who threw for more than 3,700 yards and 31 touchdowns during his high school career. In fact, Brady's high school coach believed that his star quarterback had the throwing arm and leadership skills to play major college football.

Brady graduated from high school in the spring of 1995 with a fine 3.5 grade point average. By that time he felt that he was ready to handle the challenge of playing for a big-time college football program. Several major schools from California offered him football scholarships, but after weighing all his options—including an offer to play baseball in the Montreal Expos' farm system—he decided to go to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, home of the famed Michigan Wolverines football team.

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> *Brady once joked that his sisters' enthusiasm for hiding phone messages left for him by girls convinced him to enroll at Michigan. "That's why I moved 2,000 miles away to college, so I could get a date," he claimed with a smile.*
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> "

Brady once joked that his sisters' enthusiasm for hiding phone messages left for him by girls convinced him to enroll at Michigan. "That's why I moved 2,000 miles away to college, so I could get a date," he claimed with a smile. In reality, however, Brady was drawn to Michigan by the school's rich football history and the appeal of playing in Michigan Stadium, the largest stadium in the country. "The tradition here is great," he said. "There's nothing like Michigan football."

Over the next few years, Brady continued to attend school and to play football. He graduated from the University of Michigan in the spring of 2000 with a bachelor's degree in organizational studies and a 3.3 grade point average.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

College—Michigan Wolverines

Brady began his football career at the University of Michigan by "redshirting" during his first year there, meaning that he did not play in any games during the 1995 season. College athletes are eligible to play their sport for four seasons. By sitting out one season, or redshirting, Brady was able to extend his four-year period of eligibility. He was content to spend the 1996 season as a reserve, but when Wolverine Head Coach Lloyd Carr named senior Brian Griese as the starting quarterback for the 1997 season, Brady was so upset that he thought about transferring to another school. Carr

University of Michigan quarterback Brady throws a touchdown pass in the 2000 Orange Bowl.

ultimately convinced the young quarterback to stay put, and Brady later described his threat to transfer as the immature reaction of a "whiner."

As the 1997 season progressed, neither Brady nor anyone else found much reason to criticize Carr's choice of starting quarterbacks. Led by Griese's steady performance at quarterback, Michigan cruised to an unbeaten season, the Big Ten Conference championship, and a share of the national championship. A few months later, Griese was drafted by the NFL Denver Broncos, and within a few seasons he became the club's starting quarterback. (For more information on Griese, see *Biography Today*, Jan. 2002.)

Brady was named Michigan's starting quarterback for the 1998 season. The junior from California was excited about the opportunity to fulfill his dream of leading the Wolverines, but he also knew that it would be a great challenge for him and his teammates to equal the success of the 1997 team. Eager to prepare for the upcoming season, Brady decided to drop by Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana, where he would make his first start. A month before the season began, Brady paid a visit to the stadium during his summer break. He found an open gate and walked into the empty stadium. He spent about an hour familiarizing himself with the place, imagining how it would feel to lead the Michigan squad down the field. But when he decided to sneak back out of the stadium, he realized that he had been locked inside by the maintenance staff. "It was getting dark, and I was starting to freak out," he recalled. "There was a 15-foot drop if you climbed over the wall, so finally I broke into a maintenance closet, found an extension ladder, threw the thing over the fence and climbed down."

When the 1998 football campaign got underway, it did not start as Brady had hoped. He played well, but the defending national champion Wolverines lost their first two games. Fans and reporters alike were quick to criticize the team's poor start, but Michigan quickly recovered. The team won 10 of its last 11 games, including a 45-31 pounding of Arkansas in the Citrus Bowl. Brady was a major factor in the team's turnaround, setting single-season school records for pass attempts (350) and completions (214).

Sharing Quarterbacking Duties with a Prized Recruit

Despite his fine performance during the 1998 season, however, Brady had to fight to keep his position as the team's starting quarterback the following year. He was pressed hard for the starting slot by Drew Henson, a sophomore gunslinger who had been one of the nation's most highly rated recruits of the 1990s. Coach Carr eventually named Brady the starting quarterback for the 1999 season, but he told reporters that Henson would get significant playing time.

As the season unfolded, Carr switched back and forth between Brady and Henson, depending on which player seemed to be in the better groove. Neither player liked the situation, but they were careful to avoid making controversial statements that might hurt their team. "I knew the only way I was going to be successful out there is if I handled my emotions," recalled Brady. "I didn't concern myself with disappointment and frustration because I had done that early in my career. And I was not the player that I am now. I know that frustration doesn't get you anywhere. If I sit over there and get angry on the sideline, then when I go back out there [on the field] I'm not going to be the same kind of player. That's something I've learned, so I don't change my emotion. I don't change my thoughts. When I'm in there, I'm in there to do a job. I'm there to get my team in the end zone."

Late in the season, Carr finally decided to keep the senior Brady as his full-time quarterback. Brady responded by leading Michigan to a strong finish. The team closed the season with four straight wins, including a victory over arch-rival Ohio State. The triumph over the Buckeyes earned Michigan another Big Ten Championship and a spot in the Orange Bowl against the fifth-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide.

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In the weeks leading up to the 2000 Orange Bowl, Coach Carr expressed appreciation for Brady's steady performance throughout the season. "Tom is very consistent, and he is not an up-and-down type of guy, either as a performer or as a person. He's just a very tough individual."

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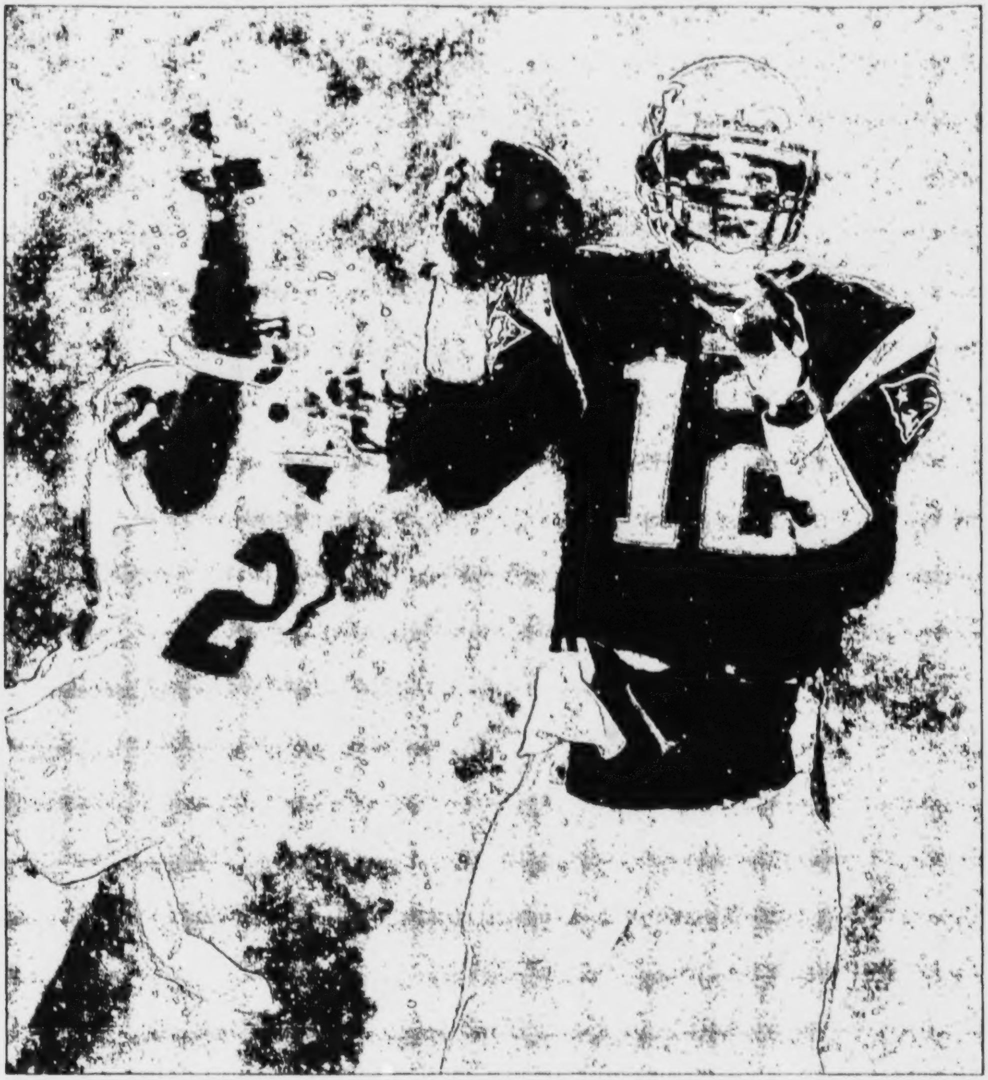
In the weeks leading up to the Orange Bowl, Carr expressed appreciation for Brady's steady performance throughout the season. "Tom is very consistent, and he is not an up-and-down type of guy, either as a performer or as a person. He's just a very tough individual." He also spoke with pride about his senior quarterback's approach to sharing time with Henson: "Long term, Tom Brady will look back and be able to say that in the most difficult position he has ever been in, he handled it remarkably well. He handled it in a way where he gained in the eyes of his teammates, he gained in stature because he put his team first. He knew if he did not handle it in a positive way, it would have hurt this team. In spite of his own pain, he handled it like a champion."



New England Patriots quarterback Brady (#12) is sacked by Charles Woodson of the Oakland Raiders in this AFC divisional playoff game, January 2002.

The Orange Bowl was held on January 2, 2000. In that final game for the Wolverines, Brady posted his best-ever performance in a Michigan uniform. He led his team to a thrilling 35-34 overtime victory, completing 34 of 46 passes for 369 yards and four touchdowns, including a game-winning strike to tight end Shawn Thompson in overtime. After the game, Coach Carr declared that Brady was "everything you want in a quarterback. He's a lot like Brian Griese. He'll play in the NFL. [There are] a lot of guys out there who doubted Griese, and they've lived to see how wrong they could be. And anybody who doubts that Brady can play in the NFL, they'll find themselves in the same situation. The kid just can see things. And the guys around him, they love him. If you knew him, you'd love him, too."

Pros — New England Patriots

With his career at Michigan over, Brady turned his attention to the NFL. As the 2000 NFL Draft approached, Brady thought that he would be selected in the third or fourth round. But scouts questioned his arm strength and athleticism. In addition, some NFL scouts and coaches interpreted Michigan's decision to use both Brady and Henson at quarterback during the 1999 season as a criticism of Brady's abilities rather than an indication of Henson's potential. As a result, Brady was passed over until the sixth round of the draft, when he was finally selected by the New England Patriots.

Brady's low draft position upset and angered him, but he shook off the disappointment. When he arrived in Foxboro, Massachusetts, home of the Patriots, he made it clear that he was determined to make it in the NFL. For example, he made a special effort to learn from Drew Bledsoe, New England's star quarterback. "There are a lot of older guys [in the NFL], from what I understand, that don't help the younger guy," Brady explained. "They say, 'You learn yourself. I had to learn myself.' That's never the way [Bledsoe] approached it. He's been awfully helpful since the day I got here."

"

"When Tom first came in, he was this skinny kid and was very inquisitive in his first year," recalled former Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe. "You could tell immediately from the types of questions he asked that he was a very intelligent player. As a rookie quarterback, he had a lot of input during the week in quarterback meetings rather than just sit back and relax as a third or fourth-string quarterback. He really was a valuable part of our meetings."

"

Bledsoe, meanwhile, was happy to share his knowledge with the eager Michigan graduate. "When Tom first came in, he was this skinny kid and was very inquisitive in his first year," recalled Bledsoe. "You could tell immediately from the types of questions he asked that he was a very intelligent player. As a rookie quarterback, he had a lot of input during the week in quarterback meetings rather than just sit back and relax as a third or fourth-string quarterback. He really was a valuable part of our meetings."

The Patriots struggled throughout the 2000 campaign, finishing with only five victories in 16 games. Like most other rookie quarterbacks in the NFL, Brady saw very little playing time. In fact, he only threw three passes the entire season, completing one for six yards. But the season was still quite valuable in his development. He memorized every line of the New England playbook, and he established a genuine friendship with Bledsoe. The two quarterbacks attended baseball games together and regularly met at the golf course on their days off.

Hard Work and Improvement

Brady's dedication to hard work and self-improvement was on full display during the spring and summer of 2001. He maintained an intensive weight training schedule and worked on his passing technique every day. By the time he showed up at New England's training camp at the end of the summer, he had added 15 pounds of muscle to his frame and was throwing the ball with more power than ever before. He played so well during the preseason that Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick promoted him to the team's number two quarterback, ahead of Damon Huard, a veteran player who had recently been the starting quarterback for the Miami Dolphins.

As the 2001 season got underway, few fans or football experts expected New England to compete seriously for a division title, and a Super Bowl appearance seemed out of the question. But even so, the start of the season was a great disappointment to Patriots fans. New England lost the first two games of the season, and in the second of those contests Bledsoe was tackled so hard that the impact punctured an artery in the quarterback's chest, causing massive internal bleeding. After the game, Brady was the first teammate to visit Bledsoe in the hospital. But he later confessed that he had been unable to find words to comfort his friend, who faced months of rehabilitation and recovery before he would be able to play again.

When Coach Belichick announced that Brady would start at quarterback for the Patriots in Week 3 of the NFL season, Patriots fans braced themselves for a long season. After all, Brady had only been a sixth-round draft pick, and he had almost no NFL playing experience. But in Week 3, Brady played well and the Patriots roared to a 44-13 upset victory over the Indianapolis Colts. Afterwards, Brady was asked if he had felt nervous before or during the game. "I'd tell you if I did," he replied. "But I've been preparing for this game my whole life. I knew eventually this day would come." Later that night, he signed a game ball from his first-ever victory as a starting NFL quarterback and mailed it to Tom Martinez, the San Mateo coach who had helped him develop his playing skills as a teenager. Martinez later said that the gesture "shows you what kind of person he is."

The Patriots Become the "Brady Bunch"

As the season progressed, the Patriots slowly emerged as one of the league's most surprising teams. Led by Brady, who played with the poise and leadership of a veteran, the Patriots racked up victory after victory. By mid-season, fans and football analysts were referring to the team as the "Brady Bunch," stealing the name of a 1970s television program. They were also marveling at Brady's easygoing, relaxed style. "He walks around the locker room in jeans and loose sweatshirts, his cap on backwards, like some high school kid chilling out at the mall," wrote Bill Reynolds in the *Providence Journal*. "There's never been any indication of ego, the feeling Brady is one more professional athlete who thinks he's a star in his own movie. Teammate Mike Compton has said Brady always seems to be smiling, as if all of this is like sandlot football played by kids."

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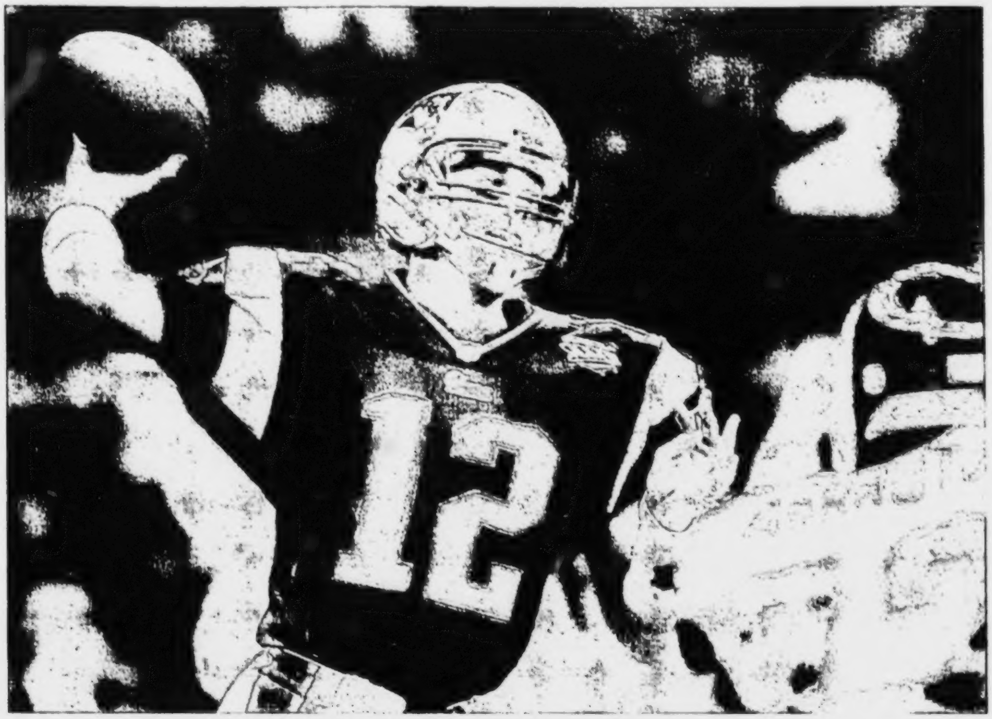
Brady's season did have its low points, however. In Week 7, for instance, he threw four interceptions in the fourth quarter of a loss against the Denver Broncos. But he did not let the poor performance shake his confidence. Instead, he came out the following week and threw for 250 yards and three touchdowns to lead New England to a victory over the Atlanta Falcons. "Inexperienced quarterbacks need to show they can deal with the highs and lows of this league," said one member of the Patriots' coaching staff. "The jury is still out until you face adversity, and Tom proved he can deal with it."

As the season drew to a close, Bledsoe finally recovered from his injury and declared that he was ready to play. But Coach Belichick decided to



Brady (#12) passes under pressure from Chidi Ahanotu (#72) of the St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl, February 2002.

keep Brady in the starting lineup, even though Bledsoe had been the team's biggest star for many years. "Tom has taken advantage of his opportunity," explained Belichick. "He has played consistently. But that was the same kind of consistency he showed in the preseason. The unknown for Tom was what would happen in the regular season, and we can all see what he's done."

For his part, Brady said that he never worried about losing his starting job to Bledsoe. "Those types of things don't even enter my mind," he stated. "I just worry about going out there to prepare myself. If the coach decides to put you on the bench, hey, that's one thing — that is the thing about being a player in a team sport, it's not an individual sport. You do what the team and what the coach tells you to do and you play when you are told to play and you watch when you are told to watch. That's the only thing you [can] do."

Bledsoe was not pleased with Belichick's decision. But he recognized that the team had been playing well with Brady at the helm, and he decided that it would be best for the team if he accepted the situation. "You can either do things the right way or the wrong way. The right thing was for me to be supportive of Tom and do everything I could to help us win," said Bledsoe. "As hard as it was to stand there and watch somebody else on the field, it also was very gratifying to see one of the truly good guys be rewarded for all of the hard work and dedication he showed."

Leading the Patriots into the Playoffs

Brady finished the 2001 regular season with an 11-3 record as a starter. He also completed nearly 64 percent of his passes and threw 18 touchdown passes. But the most important thing he accomplished was that he helped New England clinch the AFC Eastern Division title and a spot in the 2001 playoffs.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Patriots faced the Oakland Raiders in a driving snowstorm. Playing in heavy snow that made it impossible for television audiences to see the field's yard lines, the Raiders built a 13-3 lead through three quarters. In the fourth quarter, though, Brady got rolling. He completed nine straight passes in a long drive deep into Oakland territory, then scrambled for a six-yard touchdown to bring his team within three points. He then guided the team to a game-tying field goal in the final minutes of regulation. Brady continued his heroics in overtime, directing the Patriots to another field goal to win the game by a 16-13 score.

> *"If the coach decides to put you on the bench, hey, that's one thing—that is the thing about being a player in a team sport, it's not an individual sport. You do what the team and what the coach tells you to do and you play when you are told to play and you watch when you are told to watch. That's the only thing you [can] do."*

After the game, reporters and teammates alike marveled at Brady's performance when the game was on the line. For example, he completed an impressive 32 of 52 passes for 312 yards for the entire game. But he was practically flawless in the fourth quarter and overtime, completing 20 of 28 passes for 138 yards. "He never seems to get rattled," said New England wide receiver Troy Brown. "You never see him put his head down, get upset about making a bad play. The air he carries gives you a sense of confidence."

New England then faced the heavily favored Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC Championship Game for the right to go to the Super Bowl. The two teams fought to a draw for much of the first half, but in the closing moments of the second quarter, Brady was sidelined with an ankle injury. Bledsoe played well in relief, however, leading the Patriots to a 24-17 upset victory. After the game, Brady expressed great happiness for Bledsoe, who had endured a very difficult year, both physically and emotionally.

Most Valuable Player of the Super Bowl

As champions of the AFC, New England earned a berth in Super Bowl XXXVI against the powerful St. Louis Rams. Brady and the Patriots entered the game as two-touchdown underdogs to the Rams, but the New England players noted that they had been underdogs in all three of their previous playoff games as well. Coach Belichick also announced that Brady's ankle was feeling much better, and that he would be able to start against the Rams. This news gave the team an added boost of confidence.

> *"You can't say enough about that kid," said veteran Patriots receiver David Patten. "He has a tremendous amount of confidence. He has led this team. Maybe he doesn't have the most impressive statistics, but it doesn't matter. The kid knows how to win. He knows how to motivate other players. My hat is off to the guy."*

On February 3, 2002, the day of the Super Bowl, Brady completed his usual pregame preparations. Then, as his teammates dressed and talked and paced the locker room nervously, he fell asleep in front of his locker. Not surprisingly, several Patriots were stunned to see their young quarterback sleeping peacefully less than an hour before the biggest game of their lives. But by this time, they recognized that it was simply another sign of Brady's unusually relaxed and confident approach to the game. Later he woke up from his nap and confided, "I didn't think I'd feel this good," Brady said. "I don't know how to explain it. You just convince yourself that it's just a game. It's just another game—even though everything leading up to it tells you how big it is."

As the Super Bowl unfolded, New England once again proved the experts wrong. Led by a fierce defense, a punishing ground attack, and Brady's mistake-free play, the Patriots surged to a 17-3 fourth-quarter lead over the Rams. But in the game's closing minutes, St. Louis roared back. Led by their own star quarterback, Kurt Warner, the Rams scored two quick touchdowns to tie the game.

Brady and wide receiver Fred Coleman celebrate their 20-17 Super Bowl win, February 2002.

New England received the ball for one final possession deep in their own territory. Many fans and reporters thought that Coach Belichick would simply run out the clock and try to win in overtime, rather than risk an interception or fumble that would put the Rams in position to score again. But instead he decided to mount a final scoring drive in regulation. "With a quarterback like Brady, going for the win is not that dangerous because he's not going to make a mistake,"Belichick later explained.

Belichick's decision to put the game in Brady's hands paid off. Brady completed a flurry of passes downfield, steadily moving his team down the field as the seconds ticked away. He moved the team a total of 53 yards in 81 seconds, then trotted to the sideline as Patriots placekicker Adam Vinatieri lined up to try a 48-yard field goal on the last play of the game. The kick went squarely through the uprights, giving the New England Patriots their first-ever Super Bowl Championship.

Brady, who completed 16 of 27 passes for 145 yards and a touchdown and became the youngest starting quarterback ever to win the Super Bowl, was named the game's Most Valuable Player. "You can't say enough about that kid," said veteran Patriots receiver David Patten. "He has a tremendous amount of confidence. He has led this team. Maybe he doesn't have the most impressive statistics, but it doesn't matter. The kid knows how to win. He knows how to motivate other players. My hat is off to the guy."

Preparing for the Future

Brady's performance during the 2001 season and in Super Bowl XXXVI made him one of the year's top sports stories. But while he enjoys some of the benefits of his new celebrity status, such as appearing on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and serving as a judge for the Miss USA Pageant, he admits that he is still struggling to adjust to his new life. "These last few weeks have been a whirlwind, and I'm trying to learn as I go along," he said. "I think I'm a pretty good quarterback, but there's all this other stuff that goes along with being a very recognizable person, and I suck at it. . . . Why do some guys have one great year and then play so badly the next? Well, now I think I know why—because there are so many things that can take you away from what you need to do to focus on your job. My biggest fear is to end up being a one-hit wonder."

Brady also vows that he will not let his new celebrity status change his outlook on life or the way he treats other people. For example, he still remembers the way he felt when he was eight years old and San Francisco Giants outfielder Chili Davis ignored his request for an autograph. "I remember thinking that if I ever got famous, I'd never be like that. But now that I'm in that position, I can sort of understand how something like that could happen. I'm very aware that how I behave can make someone's day or crush him, and I don't want people to look at me and think I've changed."

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Brady says that he is determined to reward New England's faith in him. "I'm going to turn on these tapes [from the 2001 season] later this spring and summer and really evaluate what I need to do to take my game up another level. There's so much room for improvement, I don't even know where to start. To continue to gain strength and more understanding of the game. There's a lot of small stuff, a lot of things I've got to be better on. . . . There's never going to be complacency with me. I'm looking for the next challenge at this point. I'm going to enjoy this one for a little bit, but then it's on to something bigger. Like another [Super Bowl] ring."

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In April 2002, the Patriots traded Bledsoe to the Buffalo Bills, clearing the way for Brady to be the starter again for the 2002 season. For his part, Brady says that he is determined to reward New England's faith in him. "I'm going to turn on these tapes [from the 2001 season] later this spring and summer and really evaluate what I need to do to take my game up another level," he stated. "There's so much room for improvement, I don't even know where to start. To continue to gain strength and more understanding of the game. There's a lot of small stuff, a lot of things I've got to be better on — certain routes, certain drops, how to escape better in the pocket, how to avoid the rush and continue to look downfield. There's never going to be complacency with me. I'm looking for the next challenge at this point. I'm going to enjoy this one for a little bit, but then it's on to something bigger. Like another [Super Bowl] ring."

HOME AND FAMILY

Brady divides his time between the Boston area and San Mateo, where his family still lives. He is unmarried, and his sister Maureen insists that "whatever girl gets him is going to be the luckiest one in the world. He's a good man. He loves kids. He loves his family. I guess growing up with three sisters [taught him] how to treat women, and he understands them. He's a little sweetheart. He's tough on the field, but off the field, with us girls, he's pretty sentimental."

HONORS AND AWARDS

Most Valuable Player, Michigan Wolverines: 1999
NFL Pro Bowl: 2001
Super Bowl XXXVI Championship: 2002
Most Valuable Player, Super Bowl XXXVI: 2002

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

Brady enjoys golfing, reading, and watching baseball in his spare time.

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ADDRESS

New England Patriots
60 Washington Street
Foxboro, MA 02035

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

http://www.nfl.com
http://www.nflplayers.com
http://www.patriots.com

Tara Dakides 1975-

American Professional Snowboarder
Winner of Five Winter X Games Gold Medals

BIRTH

Tara Dakides (pronounced *da-KEY-dis*) was born on August 20, 1975, in Mission Viejo, California. Her parents, Frank and Patty Dakides, were divorced when she was 11 years old. Afterward Tara and her older sister, Stacy, lived with their mother, a former model who started her own business helping people settle into new homes.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Dakides grew up in Laguna Hills, an upper-middle-class suburb of Los Angeles. She was a very active and athletic girl who participated in a wide variety of sports. For example, she started downhill skiing at age four, and she began skateboarding at age seven. But gymnastics was her favorite sport throughout her childhood. She dreamed of competing in the Olympic Games like her hero, 1984 gold medalist Mary Lou Retton.

Dakides showed a great deal of talent as a young gymnast. She trained for six hours each day and took part in many competitions. When she was nine years old, she attended an elite gymnastics camp in Houston, Texas. At this camp, famed U.S. Olympic Coach Bela Karolyi pulled her aside to help her with one of her routines.

When Dakides was 11, however, her parents went through a bitter divorce. She had trouble coping with the split and lost interest in gymnastics. "I don't want to sound like a whiner, because everybody has their difficult times," she noted. "But it was a really bad divorce. I was a depressed, lost kid. School was like a jail to me. I didn't like home. I didn't like anyplace. I just fought everything."

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"Participating in gymnastics was a huge help with my snowboarding coordination. It gave me the confidence to be upside down in the air. I think gymnastics contributed to every sport I've gone into because gymnastics is such a demanding sport for balance and for being aware of what's going on with your body."

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Although Dakides quit gymnastics that year, she credits the sport with giving her the physical training and discipline to succeed in her later career as a professional snowboarder. "Participating in gymnastics was a huge help with my snowboarding coordination. It gave me the confidence to be upside down in the air," she explained. "I think gymnastics contributed to every sport I've gone into because gymnastics is such a demanding sport for balance and for being aware of what's going on with your body."

After her parents' divorce, Dakides spent lots of time riding her skateboard. The activity helped to take her mind off of her personal problems, but it also sometimes got her in trouble. "I had a skateboard for as long as I can remember. It was my transportation to elementary school," she recalled. "Just before high school, I really got into street skating. . . . Since there weren't as many skate parks back then, I got hassled a lot. Sometimes I got ticketed, and I was kicked out of a lot of malls, schools, and businesses."

Riding a Snowboard for the First Time

Dakides tried snowboarding for the first time in 1988, when she was 13 years old. "I fell in love with it instantly," she remembered. "Everything about snowboarding attracted me. It started out as a rebellious sport, and I just fit in perfectly." The sport of snowboarding originated in the 1960s, when adventurous young people tried sliding down snow-covered hills on surfboards or on two skis bolted together. For many years, snowboarding was considered an "outlaw" sport and was not allowed at most ski resorts. But as the equipment improved and more trend-setting young people took up the sport, snowboarding rapidly gained in popularity and acceptance.

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Within a year of her first time on a snowboard, Dakides was skipping school to ride at Snow Summit and Bear Mountain, two California resorts at the forefront of the snowboarding craze. "I ditched a lot of school, loaded up the car, and headed to the local mountains on the snowboard," she recalled. Since she could not afford to buy lift tickets, she either helped build and maintain the halfpipe in exchange for free tickets, or she stole tickets from other skiers.

During this time, Dakides remained angry with her parents and rarely went home, choosing instead to stay with friends. But her interest in snowboarding prevented her from getting into serious trouble. "I was going to shows, . . . hanging out, doing whatever I wanted," she noted. "I saw a lot of my friends get into drugs. I could easily have gone down the road of being a wastoid and not doing anything with my life. I knew I could be really good at snowboarding, and that's all I wanted to do. Snowboarding saved me."

At this point Dakides was attending Laguna Hills High School, where she was a soccer star. But she dropped out in the tenth grade, at the age of 16.

She sold her stereo and used the money to buy a bus ticket to Mammoth Lakes, a ski resort town located six hours north of Los Angeles. She packed all of her belongings—including her snowboard, skateboard, clothes, a Walkman, and some tapes—into a big duffel bag and set out on her own.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Becoming a Professional Snowboarder

In her early days in Mammoth Lakes, Dakides worked at a sub shop and rode her snowboard every day. She soon met other young, independent-minded young women like herself who were finding ways to make money through snowboarding. For example, they would win a few dollars or some free gear by doing tricks in snowboard contests. Dakides began competing on her snowboard at the age of 18. She hooked into sponsorship deals with two early snowboard manufacturers, Slide and Morrow, which provided her with equipment and money to travel.

In 1994, Dakides accompanied some snowboarding friends on a photo shoot to Idaho. While there, she tried her first backflip off of a wind-formed lip in a remote part of the ski area. Unfortunately, she failed to complete the flip and landed directly on the top of her head. It took an hour for the ski patrol to reach her and evacuate her to a hospital, where doctors told her that she had suffered a compression fracture of her spine. "That was an eye opener," she stated. "The doctor told me I was half a millimeter from being a paraplegic. I healed physically pretty quickly, but I didn't heal mentally for at least another year."

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> ***"I just see somebody do something, whether it be a girl or a guy, and I just want to do it too," she explained. "And if it scares me then I just want to do it more. . . . When I'm snowboarding, there is no gender for me. I'm an athlete. I think of us all as equals, but I always get stoked to see a girl slam really hard and then get right back up and try it again!"***
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Dakides eventually regained her confidence and perfected a backflip on her snowboard. In 1998, she came to international attention in the snowboarding world when she became the first woman to complete a backflip in competition. Since then, Dakides has been known for her daring, aggressive style on the snowboard. She has performed a number of highly technical tricks that are far beyond the abilities of most female competitors. In fact, she has been credited with narrowing the gap between men and women in snowboarding. "I just see somebody do something, whether it be a girl or a guy, and I just want to do it too," she explained. "And if it scares me then I just want to do it more." Dakides has never emphasized her gender. "When I'm snowboarding, there is no gender for me. I'm an athlete. I think of us all as equals, but I always get stoked to see a girl slam really hard and then get right back up and try it again!"

Thanks to her aggressive style and willingness to try any trick, Dakides earned the nickname "Terrorizer." She has suffered a series of injuries, ranging from bumps and bruises to blown-out knees. "I've fractured my back, dislocated elbows, and torn ligaments in both knees. I've gotten whiplash six or seven times this year and who knows how many concussions. This sport is all or nothing," she noted. "[But] I also want to be smart about things. I don't want to just throw myself off anything. I think as I'm getting older I'm learning how to be more safe in my aggressiveness."

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Establishing Herself as a Top Competitor

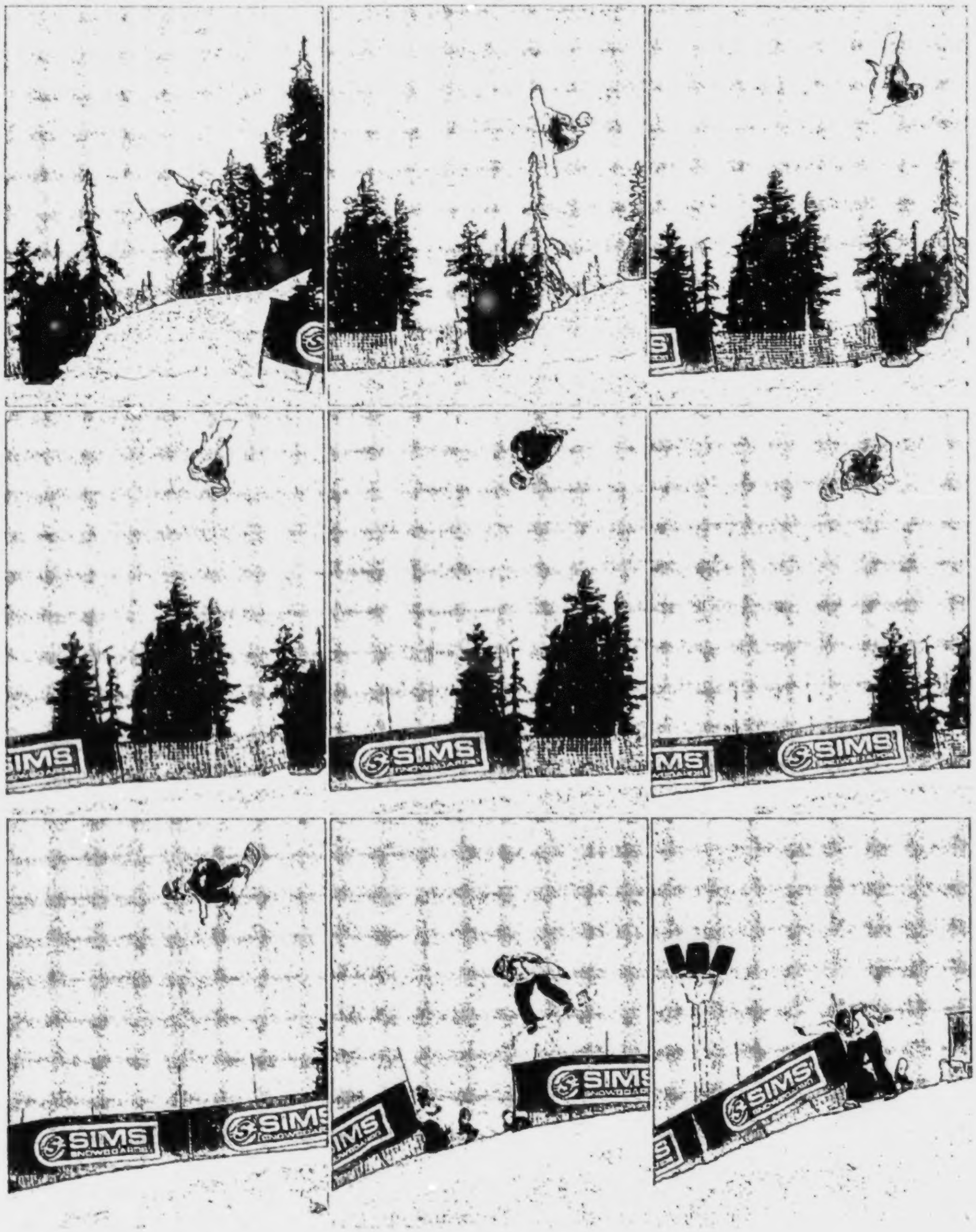
Dakides competes in three different events as a professional snowboarder: big air, slope style, and halfpipe. In big air competitions, snowboarders glide down a 400-foot ramp and launch themselves off of a ski jump. They do a series of flips and other tricks while sailing 100 feet through the air, and then land at the bottom. Slope style competitions, which are Dakides's favorite, take place in a terrain park filled with obstacles, like jumps, metal railings, and boxes. Competitors choose their own routes through the course and receive points for difficulty and execution as they do tricks along the way. In halfpipe events, snowboarders glide back and forth through a U-shaped tube, gaining speed on the downward slopes and performing tricks as they fly off the top of the upward slopes.

After her breakthrough year in 1998—when she shocked many observers by doing a backflip in competition—Dakides established herself as one of the top competitors in women's professional snowboarding. In 1999, she won a gold medal in the slope style event and a silver medal in the big air event at the Winter X Games. (The X Games is an annual competition,

created by the ESPN sports television channel, featuring "extreme sports" that are particularly popular with young people, such as street luge, skysurfing, skateboarding, wakeboarding, and in-line skating.)

On the strength of her famous backflip, Dakides won gold medals in both the slope style and big air events at the Winter X Games in March 2000. As it turned out, however, this competition would be the last one at which she performed the backflip. A month later, she introduced a new, complicated trick called a backside rodeo at the 2000 World Snowboard Championships. This trick is a sort of off-axis backflip that also includes a "rail grab," in which the snowboarder reaches down with her hands and grabs the board between her feet. The technical difficulty of the backside rodeo helped Dakides win gold medals in both slope style and big air at the World Snowboard Championships.

In 2001, Dakides won a gold medal in her third consecutive Winter X Games, nailing a backside rodeo on the final run to win the big air event. "I was a little uncertain because I had a bad day at the slope style course so I wasn't feeling as confident as I usually am," she noted. "My first and second jumps I crashed so I'm just glad I was able to pull it together with my third." Dakides went on to win the slope style competition at the World Snowboard Championships later that year. Her success continued in early 2002, when she once again claimed a gold medal at the Winter X Games by winning the slope style event.



Attracting Fans, Fame, and Sponsors

Thanks to her success in professional snowboarding competitions, Dakides attracted a huge fan following and a great deal of media attention. In November 2001, for example, she appeared on the cover of an issue of *Sports Illustrated Women* dedicated to the "Coolest Girls in Sports." She also performed stunts for the 2002 snowboarding comedy movie *Out Cold,* and was featured in the action-documentary film *Winning Women*—about women in extreme sports—for the Women's Entertainment (WE) cable television channel. Dakides also became one of the professional snowboarders featured in the Cool Boarders 2001 video game series by Sony. "I would not have wanted this to happen to me any earlier," she admitted. "I would not have been able to handle it."

Dakides gained several high-profile corporate sponsors over the years, including Mountain Dew, Sims, Vans, and Billabong. Her name appears on a snowboard and on a line of clothing. While she enjoyed the fact that she was able to earn a good living doing something that she loved, Dakides also worried about her sport becoming too popular. "This sport has definitely taken a turn, and I think it's getting better," she stated. "It still has roots to it, which is rad. But I hope it doesn't lose it 'cause of the popularity and media attention."

Partly because of her concerns about the integrity of snowboarding, Dakides decided not to try out for the 2002 U.S. Olympic Team. She viewed the Olympics, which was featuring snowboarding as a medal sport for only the second time in 2002, as too "corporate." After all, she pointed out, only a decade earlier snowboards were forbidden at many ski resorts. "We were kept in a corner," she remembered. "I'm glad I got to see the beginning, and I got to see the punk delinquents who weren't accepted become big, and that I got to be a part of it. There's something real about that. I've also gotten to see where it's at now, see it evolve."

> *"I like testing my body physically and myself mentally. Sports are a challenge for me. I just kept doing what I loved doing. Even now, that floating feeling I get when I'm in the air still catches me off guard in how rad it feels. I can almost freeze-frame in the air. Everything is still, and I'm completely upside-down. I see the whole world underneath me, and then I see my landing, and then I land it. That handful of times when you are fully aware is like nothing else."*

Continuing to Push the Limits

Despite her success with the backside rodeo, Dakides has not been content to perform the same trick over and over and wait for other competitors to catch up with her. Instead, she has continued pushing herself to

perform ever more difficult tricks. "I don't want to be marked as the girl who does backside rodeos," she explained. "So I'm trying more difficult things where the chances of falling are greater. It either works and I win, or I get slapped."

Although she recognizes the danger involved in her sport, Dakides prefers to concentrate on the excitement instead. "I like testing my body physically and myself mentally. Sports are a challenge for me. I just kept doing what I loved doing," she noted. "Even now, that floating feeling I get when I'm in the air still catches me off guard in how rad it feels. I can almost freeze-frame in the air. Everything is still, and I'm completely upside-down. I see the whole world underneath me, and then I see my landing, and then I land it. That handful of times when you are fully aware is like nothing else."

In February 2002, Dakides crashed during practice for the World Snowboard Championships in Vail, Colorado. She broke her leg and tore ligaments in her knee, putting an early end to her season. But she was determined to overcome her injuries and return to her active lifestyle. "My greatest fear is having a normal job," she admitted. "If I'm not able to get out and exercise in some way, shape, or form, I get really down. I have to get out and do something!"

Dakides encourages her young fans to pursue their own dreams. "Follow your heart," she stated. "If you want it bad enough, go for it. Don't let anyone tell you can't do it 'cause you can if you put your heart into it. It may take a long time, and you may get discouraged, but don't give up."

HOME AND FAMILY

Dakides owns a three-bedroom home in the resort town of Mammoth Lakes, California. "Mammoth is appealing," she noted. "It's mellow and the people are cool, and it's still close to home." She plans to build an indoor skateboarding ramp on her property.

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Dakides is not married, but she is involved in a serious relationship with fellow professional snowboarder Kevin "K.J." Jones.

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

Dakides's hobbies outside of snowboarding include surfing, skateboarding, and riding motocross. She also enjoys listening to music and buys many CDs. During quiet moments, Dakides can be found composing poems or writing in her journal. "Most poems come from things that inspire me — things that I see. I get into a certain mood or a zone and a lot of feelings come out with it," she stated. "I keep a journal, even when I'm not traveling, so that one day, when I'm in a wheelchair, I can put it into a book." When she retires from professional snowboarding, she says that she may try acting.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Winter X Games, Big Air Competition: 1999, silver medal; 2000, gold medal; 2001, gold medal
Winter X Games, Slope Style Competition: 1999, gold medal; 2000, gold medal; 2002, gold medal
Best Female Freestyle Rider (Transworld Snowboarding Reader's Poll): 1999
Snowboard World Championships, Big Air Competition: 2000, gold medal
Snowboard World Championships, Slope Style Competition: 2000, gold medal; 2001, gold medal
Best Overall Female Rider (Transworld Rider's Poll Awards): 2000

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ADDRESS

Fuse Sports Marketing
431 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

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Alison Dunlap 1969-

American Professional Bicycle Racer
Competed in the Olympics as Both a Road Racer
and a Mountain Bike Racer
Won the World Mountain Bike Championship in 2001

BIRTH

Alison Dunlap was born on July 27, 1969, in Denver, Colorado. Her father, Bob Dunlap, was a systems engineer, and her mother, Ginny Dunlap, was a grade school teacher. Her parents are divorced, and her father has since remarried. Alison has one younger sister named Carrie.

YOUTH

Growing up in Colorado, Dunlap had an active childhood. Her father, who enjoyed exploring the nearby Rocky Mountains, carried her up a 14,000-foot peak when she was less than a year old. He also took the girls on backpacking trips every year during spring break. Whenever the family drove over 10,000-foot Vail Pass on their way home from a trip, they would stop at the top and unload three bicycles from the car. Then Alison, Carrie, and their father would coast downhill for 11 miles along the paved trail that ran next to the highway, while their mother drove down to meet them with the car. "No helmets and little kick-brake bikes," Alison recalled. "I look back on that and I'm like, 'I don't know if I would let my kids do that.'"

> *Dunlap tried out for soccer in college, but she didn't make the team. "I was the last person cut from the team my freshman year. It was a blow. Now I had all this energy and no outlet. So I started searching around for another sport." She was determined to find an activity to help her stay in shape, so she attended a meeting of the college cycling club because, as she recalled, "it seemed like a good way to meet guys."*

Throughout her childhood, Dunlap always dreamed of being a world-class athlete and competing in the Olympic Games. In fact, she kept a scrapbook full of newspaper clippings about the Olympics. But her main competitive activities as a child were gymnastics and soccer, so her Olympic dreams centered around those sports. She rode bikes for fun and transportation and never really thought about becoming an Olympic cyclist.

EDUCATION

Dunlap attended Smoky Hill High School in the Denver suburb of Aurora, Colorado. She was an excellent soccer player who received most valuable player and all-league honors. "I loved soccer," she recalled. "I desperately wanted to play soccer at college. But I wasn't recruited." She was also an outstanding student, graduating as valedictorian of her class in 1987. As a graduation present, her parents bought her a blue Schwinn Tempo racing bike.

After completing high school, Dunlap went on to attend Colorado College in Colorado Springs. She tried out for the women's soccer team, which was a national power at that time, but she didn't make the team. "I was the last person cut from the team my freshman year," she said. "It was a blow. Now I had all this energy and no outlet. So I started searching around for another sport." Although she was disappointed not to make the team, Dunlap was determined to find an activity to help her stay in shape. She saw a flyer for the college cycling club and attended a meeting because, as she recalled, "it seemed like a good way to meet guys." She ended up becoming the only woman in the club and competing in road races on her Schwinn Tempo.

At first, Dunlap viewed bicycle racing as mostly a social activity. But as she trained with the men and learned from her fellow riders, she improved quickly and began winning races. In her senior year, she became the National Collegiate Champion in road racing and won the Laura Golden Award as Colorado College's Outstanding Female Athlete. Dunlap graduated from college in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in biology.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Becoming a Professional Road Cyclist

After she finished college, Dunlap became a professional bicycle racer. For the first six years of her career, she competed primarily in road races. In these events, competitors ride sleek, light weight, aerodynamic bikes fitted with narrow tires over long, paved courses. Many road races are divided into stages that are run over several days. Elite road racers usually ride as members of sponsored teams that work together to achieve a high finish for their best rider.

Dunlap immediately began rising into the ranks of the world's top bicycle racers. She finished ninth in the U.S. National Road Cycling Championships in 1991, and then placed 20th in the Women's Tour de France the following year. In 1993, she was selected to represent the United States at the World Road Cycling Championships, where she finished 29th.

Bad Luck and Injuries

In 1994, Dunlap had some bad luck that tested her toughness. She suffered a separated shoulder after a nasty crash in one race that year. In another event, she fell off her bike and knocked out three of her front teeth. She still managed to finish the stage she was riding, and she competed the following day after undergoing oral surgery.

Unfortunately, Dunlap's bad luck continued in 1995, when she was involved in the worst crash of her career. "I don't remember the crash at all," she stated. "Some people told me that a water bottle had bounced up and gotten wedged in between my front wheel and downtube. So I went over the handlebars pretty hard. And it was on a descent so we were going pretty fast. When I hit my head there was about ten minutes that I don't remember, and never will. . . . I actually didn't even hit my helmet. That's probably why it was a bad hit. My helmet had slid up and I hit right above my eyebrow."

Dunlap suffered a second-degree concussion that resulted in severe headaches. She ended up sitting out the rest of the season. "After about four weeks I started riding again," she noted. "The doctor told me that I could start racing again when the headaches went away. I kept thinking that I needed to train because I would be racing in about a week. But that's how the whole summer went."

Although Dunlap was frustrated by her slow recovery from the head injury, her time off from competition did have some positive aspects. For example, she discovered the sport of professional mountain biking by hanging out at races with her future husband, Greg Frozley. "I couldn't race, so I followed my boyfriend around to all the mountain bike races," she recalled. "I saw how the whole circuit operated and I met lots of people, and it got me thinking."

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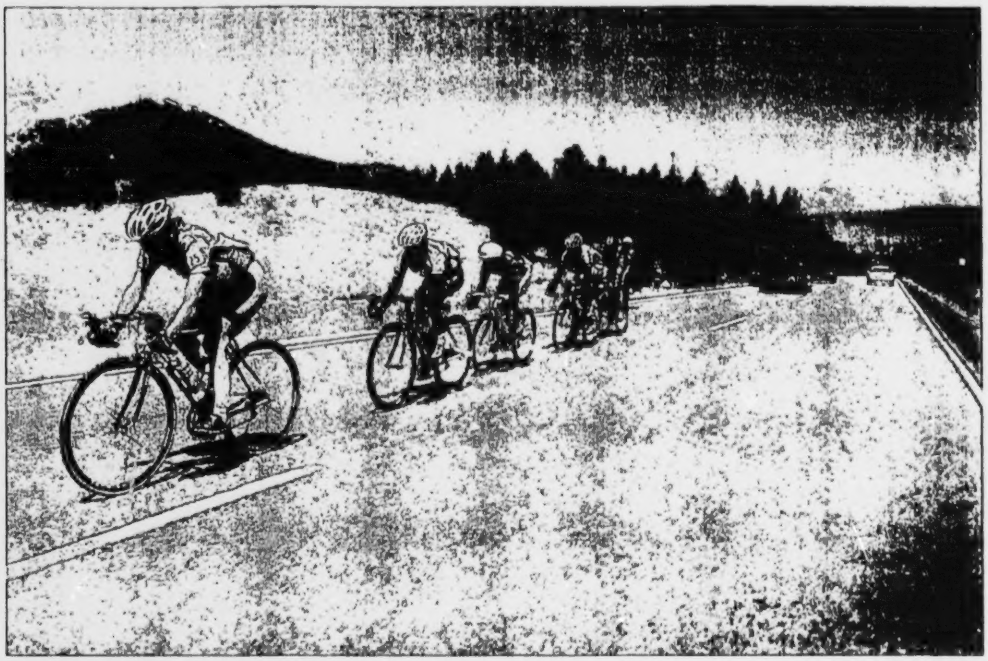
Dunlap came back strong during the 1996 season. She won a stage at the Women's Tour de France — becoming the first American woman to do so since 1989 — and finished 15th overall in the prestigious event. She also performed well at the U.S. Olympic Trials, placing second in the time trial portion and third in the road race. Her performance was good enough to earn her a spot on the three-member U.S. Olympic road cycling team for the 1996 Games in Atlanta, Georgia. "I've been wanting to make an



Dunlap, front, is shown leading the pack in this road race near Ketchum, Idaho, June 2001.

Olympic team since I was six years old," she said at the time. "Of course, then I thought I'd be a gymnast." Unfortunately, Dunlap struggled during the Olympic road race and ended up finishing a disappointing 37th in the field of 80 riders.

Switching from Road Racing to Mountain Biking

Shortly after the 1996 Olympics, Dunlap announced that she planned to switch the focus of her career from road racing to mountain biking. "I had a bad taste in my mouth after the Olympics," she explained. "I didn't want to retire from cycling, but I didn't want to race on the road anymore." In contrast to road racing events, cross-country mountain biking competitions take place on dirt courses that run through woods, over hills, and around natural obstacles. Competitors ride sturdy bikes with reinforced frames, shock-absorbers, and wide, knobby tires. Races usually take place during a single day, and racers generally ride for themselves rather than as members of teams.

Dunlap found that she liked the atmosphere of mountain bike racing better than that of road racing. "Mountain biking is a different culture," she stated. "It is laid back. The mountain bike competitions are usually held at

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ski resorts in the off-season. It is easier to relax in the mountain bike atmosphere than at a cycling road race—downtown in some large city, on pavement, and it's hot."

Dunlap also felt that mountain bike racing provided a better fit for her, both physically and emotionally. "I didn't have the fearlessness that sometimes you need to be a good road racer. For me, there's something easier about going down a technical section [a difficult part of the course that requires riders to negotiate obstacles] on a mountain bike vs. descending with 100 women in the middle of a rainstorm on narrow roads in Europe," she stated. "On a mountain bike, if I crash, it's my own fault. I can always slow down and I can always get off. On the road, 99 percent of the time it's not your fault. . . . It's the worst feeling when you see someone go down and you know in a matter of seconds you're going to be on top of them, and there's no place to go and nothing you can do."

> *"I didn't have the fearlessness that sometimes you need to be a good road racer. For me, there's something easier about going down a technical section [a difficult part of the course that requires riders to negotiate obstacles] on a mountain bike vs. descending with 100 women in the middle of a rainstorm on narrow roads in Europe."*

Although Dunlap recognized that she needed to improve if she was to succeed in mountain biking, she felt that the sport would eventually provide her with greater recognition and opportunities. "I've got a lot to learn in mountain biking at the international level. But there's a lot less depth in mountain biking, so coming from the elite level in road racing, it would be easy to switch over and move right into the top ranks. For me, I'd have to learn most about the technical aspect," she noted. "As far as women and cycling go, there's a lot more recognition for women mountain bikers than on the road. After racing nine years on the road and people still didn't know what I had done—it was frustrating and here's an opportunity to maybe make a name for myself and go bigger."

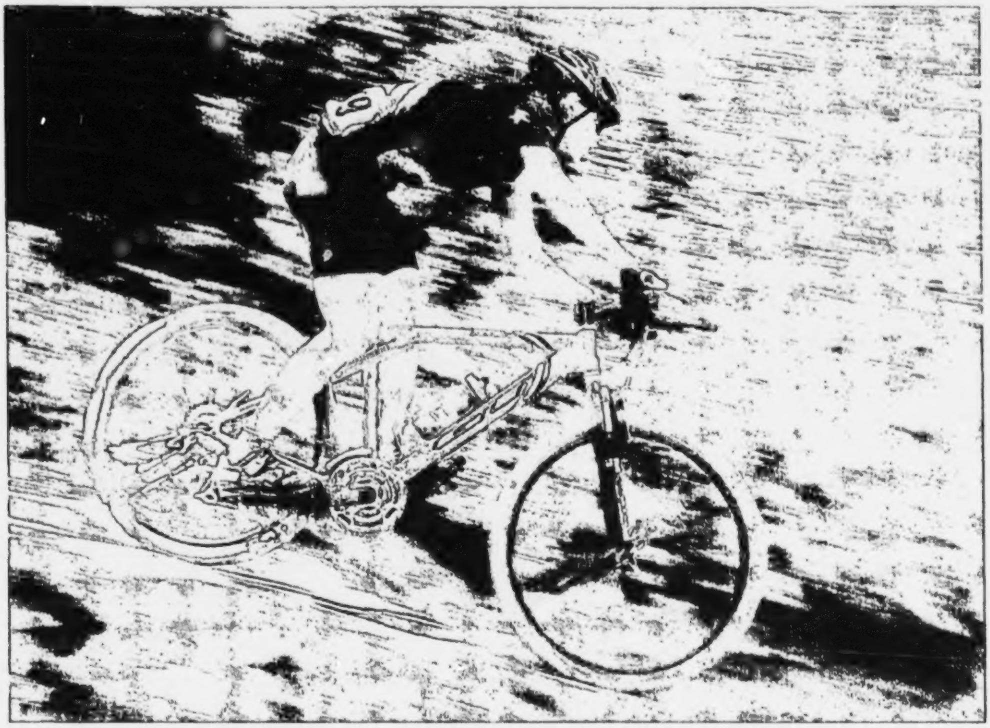
In addition to cross-country mountain bike events, Dunlap also began competing in an unusual combination road/mountain bike competition known as cyclocross. Although cyclocross is relatively unknown in the United States, it is highly popular in Europe. Cyclocross events are held during the winter months on short, unpaved loop courses. The courses feature lots of obstacles that force riders to dismount and carry their bikes over or around them. Competitors ride hybrid road bikes, with the potential for many falls and crashes on the muddy or snow-covered ground. The rider who completes the most laps in 45 minutes is the winner. Dunlap experienced great success in cyclocross, winning five consecutive national championships since 1997. "It's a good winter workout," she explained. "It has racing intensity and requires good bike-handling skills. The races only last 45 minutes, so you suffer and then get some hot chocolate."

Improving Quickly in Mountain Biking

Dunlap started her new career as a professional mountain biker in 1997. She improved quickly and won the fourth World Cup event she entered in Budapest, Hungary. She capped off her first full season by finishing seventh at the World Mountain Bike Championships in Switzerland. "I think I've surprised a lot of people," she admitted. "Even though I've had some success in the past, in women's road racing nobody knows who you are. Then you win a race in mountain biking and the media says, 'A star is born.' When I hear that I say, 'Hey, I've been around a while.'"

> *"On a mountain bike, if I crash, it's my own fault. I can always slow down and I can always get off. On the road, 99 percent of the time it's not your fault. . . . It's the worst feeling when you see someone go down and you know in a matter of seconds you're going to be on top of them, and there's no place to go and nothing you can do."*

While she focused her training on mountain bike races, Dunlap continued to compete in several road races each year to help her stay in shape. In 1998, she won four stages and finished first overall in the International Grand Prix du Feminin of Canada road race. She also placed fifth in the World Mountain Bike Championships that year. "Overall, I like mountain biking more. But there are definitely things about road racing that I miss, especially having teammates and team tactics. There's a lot of pressure being a mountain biker. You're the only one a lot of times. And it's a one-day event. It's all or nothing for that day," she stated. "There are times when I've struggled [on my mountain bike] and I think, 'What am I doing here?' I start thinking, 'This is ridiculous. I want to go back to my road bike where I don't have to get muddy and crash into trees.'"



Dunlap competes in mountain biking at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, August 1999.

Dunlap had an outstanding year in 1999. She won a World Cup race in Napa, California, and finished fourth in the World Mountain Bike Championships in Sweden. She also won three races and placed first overall in the U.S. National Championship Series. She topped off her stellar season by claiming the gold medal in mountain biking at the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, Canada. This victory was even sweeter for Dunlap because she beat her toughest rival, three-time world champion Alison Sydor of Canada. "She's the best in the world," Dunlap said after the race. "I haven't beaten her that often, but when I do I'm thrilled. Luckily today I had really good legs. On the second lap, going over the crest of a hill, I attacked and got just enough of a gap. Once you get into the trees you can't see the person ahead of you. That was my advantage and I powered away."

Competing in the 2000 Olympic Games

By the end of the 1999 season, Dunlap was ranked second in the world as a mountain biker and 74th in the world as a road racer. She set her sights on making the U.S. Olympic team and competing in the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia. For a while, Dunlap thought that she had a chance to make the American team in both road racing and mountain biking. She succeeded in making the team as a mountain biker, but she was not selected as a road racer. Cycling officials worried that she might get injured in the mountain bike race and leave them one rider short for the road racing event.

Dunlap was thrilled to make the Olympic team and looked forward to competing for a mountain biking medal in Sydney. "It is the ultimate sporting event and all of the best athletes in the world will be there. To get to go means you have reached the pinnacle of your sport. It is a huge honor to represent my country," she stated. "Getting to go to Atlanta was a dream come true. Getting to go to a second Olympics is an even bigger honor. I went to Atlanta for the 'Olympic experience.' I didn't have any big goals of trying to win. I was just thrilled to be on the team. Now I'm going to Sydney to win."

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The cross-country mountain bike race at the 2000 Olympics took place at Fairfield City Farm, a working farm and petting zoo outside of Sydney that was used to educate city children about life in the Australian outback. The course ran up and down hills and through woods that were full of exotic animals. In fact, several competitors had encounters with unusual animals during their practice sessions. One of the American riders almost ran over a six-foot-long lizard, while Dunlap was attacked by a magpie. "He came at me three times and even put a dent into my helmet," she recalled. "It's not that big of a mark. But if I hadn't been wearing a helmet, let's just say there would have been some serious blood loss." Dunlap and the other competitors ended up putting eye-shaped stickers on the backs of their helmets to discourage the bird from making further attacks.

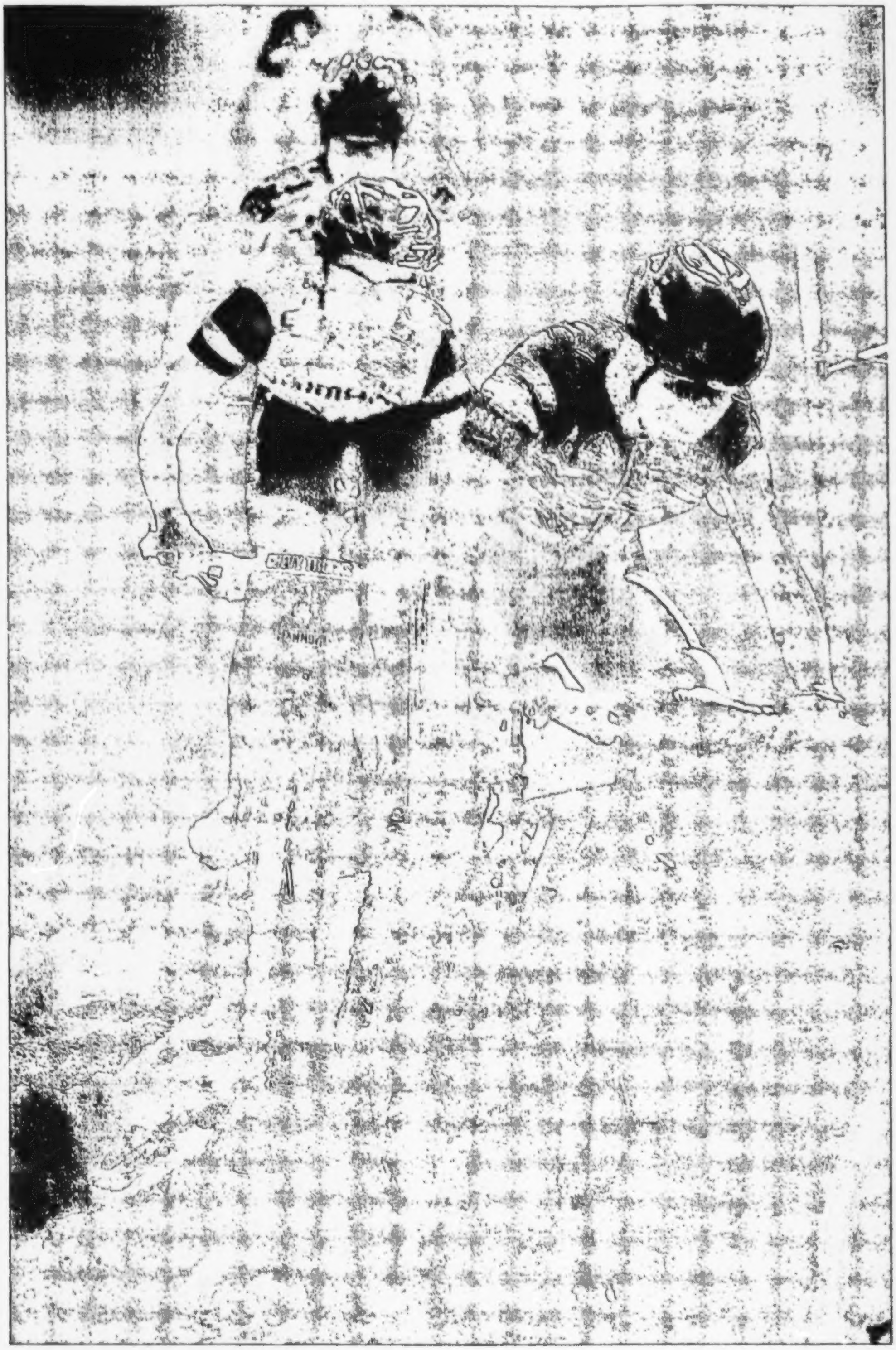
Other than the bird attack, Dunlap had good training sessions and felt strong in the days leading up to the Olympic mountain bike race. She performed well in the early stages of the race and managed to move into second place. But she ran into trouble on the third of five laps around the seven-kilometer course. "For two laps, it was really great. I was in second place, feeling really good, and then I crashed," she remembered. "It was a tree and a rock. It was kind of a thread-the-needle thing and I didn't do it very well. My handlebar clipped the tree and I slammed my hip into the rock. It took me a while to get going again. By that point, the others were already up the road and I never pulled it together again. That was kind of the end of my race." Dunlap ended up finishing in seventh place.

> *"After [September 11], I didn't even want to ride my bike anymore. I was hoping they would cancel the whole weekend [the 2001 World Mountain Bike Championships]. It just seemed so pointless. But as the week wore on and the race got closer, I just thought, you know, I want to do this for everybody out there who has suffered and lost loved ones. There are still good things in this world, and I wanted to give something that America could be proud of."*

Winning the 2001 World Mountain Bike Championship

Although she was disappointed not to win a medal in the Olympics, Dunlap came back strong during the 2001 season. She knew that the 2001 World Mountain Bike Championships were being held in mid-September in Vail, Colorado, and she looked forward to competing in front of her hometown fans. Just a few days before the race took place, however, the United States became the victim of terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. "On September 11 I lay on the couch all day and cried," Dunlap acknowledged. "I had spent the entire season preparing for the world championships, training for it, obsessing about it. Now all I could think was, They have got to cancel it. It seemed so trivial."

At first, Dunlap was reluctant to compete after the events of September 11. But then she decided that a strong performance by an American in the world championships might help the nation begin to recover from the tragedy. "After Tuesday, I didn't even want to ride my bike anymore," she admit-



Dunlap (#31) passes Ann Trombley (#4) at this mountain biking race at the Norba National Championships in Mammoth, California, September 2000.

ted. "I was hoping they would cancel the whole weekend. It just seemed so pointless. But as the week wore on and the race got closer, I just thought, you know, I want to do this for everybody out there who has suffered and lost loved ones. There are still good things in this world, and I wanted to give something that America could be proud of."

Dunlap stayed close to the leaders throughout the race and made her move on the last lap. She took the lead and held on to win the world championship, defeating her rival Alison Sydor by 12 seconds. As Dunlap approached the finish line, she grabbed an American flag from a spectator and waved it above her head. "I didn't even know the guy who handed it to me," she said about the flag, "but I wanted to have it waving over my head when I won. I was giving people something to cheer about. . . . Everyone could feel proud to be an American, and to be alive." Afterward, she dedicated her victory to those who had lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks and cried during the national anthem. "This is the greatest day of my cycling career, much better than the Olympics," she stated. "To be able to win in my own backyard, with thousands of Americans cheering, is just incredible."

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As Dunlap approached the finish line at the 2001 World Mountain Bike Championships, she grabbed an American flag from a spectator and waved it above her head. "I didn't even know the guy who handed it to me, but I wanted to have it waving over my head when I won. I was giving people something to cheer about. . . . Everyone could feel proud to be an American, and to be alive." Afterward, she dedicated her victory to those who had lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks. "This is the greatest day of my cycling career, much better than the Olympics. To be able to win in my own backyard, with thousands of Americans cheering, is just incredible."

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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Alison Dunlap married fellow cyclist Greg Frozley in October 1999. They live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "Being married has been a great thing for me," she noted. "It's made things less stressful because I know that he's always going to be there for me. On the other hand though, it also is harder because now that I'm married, I want to be home and it's harder to travel. But, you look at the big picture and cycling is a really small part of my life span. The time I spend away from home for cycling isn't that bad." Dunlap plans to retire from competition in the near future. "I think I'm getting closer to wanting to start a family," she said in 2000. "I can see myself going back to school, getting a master's [degree], and teaching high school science."

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

When she is not training or competing, Dunlap enjoys rock climbing, telemark skiing, and playing the flute.

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

National Collegiate Road Cycling Championships: 1991, first place
Laura Golden Award for Outstanding Female Athlete (Colorado College): 1991
U.S. National Cyclo-Cross Championships: 1997, first place; 1998, first place; 1999, first place; 2000, first place; 2001, first place
World Mountain Bike Championships: 1997, seventh place; 1998, fifth place; 1999, fourth place; 2000, sixth place; 2001, first place
Elite Mountain Bike Female Athlete of the Year (Visa/USA Cycling): 1997, 1998, 1999
USA Cycling Athlete of the Year: 1997
Colorado Sportswomen Hall of Fame: 1998
Pan Am Games, Mountain Biking: 1999, gold medal
Colorado College Athlete Hall of Fame: 2000

FURTHER READING

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Denver Post, June 1, 1996, p.C2; June 3, 1996, p.C3; July 22, 1996, p.C8; July 11, 1997, p.D10; June 14, 1999, p.C12; May 19, 2000, p.D1; Sep. 22, 2000, p.D14; Sep. 23, 2000, p.D1; Sep. 17, 2001, p.D12
Denver Rocky Mountain News, Sep. 17, 2001, p.C3
Houston Chronicle, Dec. 25, 1997, p.12; Aug. 5, 1999, p.13; Nov. 18, 1999, p.13

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Sports Illustrated Women, Mar. 1, 2002, p.84
Time, July 17, 2000, p.76
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Vancouver (B.C.) Sun, Aug. 3, 1999, p.C4

ADDRESS

USA Cycling
1 Olympia Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5775

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

http://www.usacycling.org/?upload/dunlap.html
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Sergio Garcia 1980-

Spanish Professional Golfer

BIRTH

Sergio Garcia was born on January 9, 1980, in Castellon, Spain. He grew up in the nearby village of Borriol, located in the hilly, orange-growing region along the Mediterranean Sea, between Valencia and Barcelona. His father, Victor Garcia, had once hoped to become a professional golfer. When he was unable to do so, he built a career as a golf instructor at a country club called the Club de Campo del Mediterraneo in Castellon. His mother, Consuela (Fernandez) Garcia, ran the pro shop at the country club. Sergio has two siblings who are

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both exceptional golfers. His older brother, Victor Jr., attended college in the United States on a golf scholarship. His younger sister, Mar, competes in a girls' golf league in Spain.

YOUTH

When Sergio was growing up, his family lived in a modest apartment in Borriol. In fact, when both parents and all the children were at home, one of the kids ended up sleeping in a hallway. Surrounded by golf from an early age, Sergio could be found practicing his swing using a broom or a feather duster at the age of two. He received his first set of golf clubs when he was three. By the time he was five, he had begun hanging around the putting green at the Club de Campo del Mediterraneo and challenging adult golfers to putting contests. "From the time he was tiny, he was very competitive and never intimidated," his father recalled. "He would walk up to anyone and say, 'Do you want to play for a Coke?'. . . He had no fear. In the end, even if he lost, he got a Coke. He was a charming kid."

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Garcia was soon playing on regulation golf courses with regulation scoring. In golf scoring, "par" refers to the standard number of strokes it should take a player to complete each hole. For example, most golf courses include short holes, which are usually designated as "par 3," as well as longer holes, which are designated "par 5." On a regulation, 18-hole golf course, par for all holes will add up to 72. In golf terminology, a player makes a "birdie" by completing a hole in one shot under par, or a "bogey" by completing a hole in one shot over par.

Within a year of receiving his first set of full-size golf clubs at age 12, Garcia became a scratch golfer, meaning that he consistently scored par on every hole. He played in a European PGA (Professional Golfers Association) event as an amateur when he was 14. His father tried to prepare him for a career in golf by hiring a tutor to teach him English. Garcia practiced his English by discussing his latest rounds of golf at mock press conferences.

As Garcia improved steadily in golf, he gradually gave up some of the other sports he had enjoyed as a kid. Yet he emphasizes that his father never pushed him to devote himself completely to golf. "When I was really small, I did whatever my friends did," he noted. "Maybe we just ran around, but we also played some tennis, some [soccer], climbed trees. Sometimes we went to the beach. If I played golf, it was because I wanted to. Perhaps I missed something as a child, but whatever I did, it was because I wanted to."

Gaining Experience and Fame as an Amateur Golfer

As a teenager, Garcia began playing in golf tournaments. Most professional golf tournaments take place over four days. Each day, all the players shoot one "round" of 18 holes. After four rounds, the scores are totaled and the player with the lowest score wins the tournament. In many tournaments, the players with the highest scores in the first few rounds are eliminated from further competition. There are many different professional tournaments on the PGA circuit, but the most prestigious are the four major tournaments that make up the PGA Grand Slam: The British Open, the Masters, the U.S. Open, and the PGA Championship.

At the age of 15, Garcia became the youngest person ever to win the European Amateur Championship. This victory qualified him to play in the 1996 British Open, which is one of the tournaments that make up the PGA's Grand Slam. As he walked up to the first tee, he recalled that "I was shaking in my little boots." Not surprisingly, the youngster failed to make the cut, and he was eliminated from the tournament in the preliminary round. Nonetheless, his performance impressed the eventual winner, Tom Lehman. After receiving the winner's trophy, called the Claret Jug, Lehman allowed Garcia to hold it, telling him that he would win the event someday.

In 1997, Garcia won a Spanish PGA event, the Catalonian Open, despite the fact that he was playing as an amateur against several regular players on the European PGA Tour. This victory had special meaning for Garcia, for the Catalonian Open was the only event his father had won during his brief career as a professional golfer. In 1998, Garcia won the British Boys' Championship, the British Amateur Championship, and the Spanish Amateur Championship, and he reached the semifinals of the U.S. Amateur Championship. Garcia also entered 13 professional golf tournaments as an amateur that year and made the cut in 12 of them. "I feel like a pro because I've played in so many pro events," he stated.

As Garcia continued to make a name for himself as an amateur golfer, he received a great deal of media attention in Spain. Spanish newspapers

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Garcia lines up a putt on the second green during the first round of the British Open, July 2001.

gave him the nickname "El Nino," meaning "The Kid," and hailed him as the future of European golf. But Garcia did not allow the attention to distract him. "I don't mind if people put these big expectations on me. If you are going to be a great player, then that is what happens," he noted. "Every good golfer has to expect it. In many ways it is positive because people believe in me. But I have to demonstrate now that I can do it. I'm not sure I can but if I keep going the way I am, then why not?"

Lowest-Scoring Amateur at the 1999 Masters

By winning the British Amateur, Garcia qualified to compete in the 1999 Masters Championship in Augusta, Georgia. The Masters, which is widely recognized as the most prestigious golf tournament in the world, is only open to the top professionals and a few elite amateurs. Garcia was pleased to be able to play a practice round with his father on the legendary course at Augusta. The experience provided Victor Garcia with a once-in-a-lifetime thrill. "It was the happiest day of his life," Consuela Garcia recalled. "I swear he was happier than when he married me. When he stepped on to the first tee, well, I have never seen him so emotional."

Garcia put in an excellent performance at the Masters. He not only made the cut, but finished the tournament in a tie for 38th place, which gave him the highest finish of any amateur. He thus became the first European golfer ever to be the lowest-scoring amateur at the Masters. By this time, Garcia felt that he had little left to accomplish as an amateur golfer. After all, he had won a total of 70 golf events in 10 different countries, and he had made the cut in 21 of the 28 professional tournaments he had entered. On April 21, 1999, at the age of 19, Garcia announced that he was turning professional. Within a few days, he had signed endorsement contracts with such major corporations as Adidas and Titleist.

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MAJOR INFLUENCES

Throughout his amateur career, Garcia's idol was Spanish professional golfer Seve Ballesteros. Ballesteros had won the Masters in 1980—the year that Garcia was born. Garcia met his idol at several professional tournaments and developed a close relationship with him. "I have always looked up to Seve because he has been a great ambassador for Spain and golf. Hopefully one day I will be talked about in the same breath as him," Garcia said. "He studies my game at tournaments and gives me little tips.... He is always telling me never to give up, and to always try to be a nice person. And I ask him things regarding the professional life. I have asked him about when he thinks I should turn pro and he told me that in my heart I would know when the time is right."

Garcia claimed that he also learned a few "magic" shots from Ballesteros. "It doesn't matter from where—beside the green, behind a tree, in the bunker," he stated. "He didn't teach me. It's something you can't teach. These shots are something that's inside you, and you have to see them in your imagination. From watching Seve, I am now able to let this magic out." For his part, Ballesteros enjoyed helping Garcia and always believed that the young man had a great deal of potential. "He is already a great champion and, quite simply, the best player of his age that I have ever seen," Ballesteros said.

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EDUCATION

Garcia graduated from a Spanish high school, the Colegio Rey Don Jaime in Castellon, in May 2000. He arranged the final stage of his education around his schedule as a professional golfer, taking two years to complete his last grade instead of one. "I live, breathe, and eat golf," he explained. "When I'm not at school I spend between six and seven hours on the practice ground. It's my life and I'm totally committed to making it to the top."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

During his rookie year as a professional golfer, Garcia showed flashes of brilliance as well as moments of disappointment and frustration. He made his professional debut at the 1999 Spanish Open in Barcelona, finishing a respectable 25th. He made an impressive American debut at the GTE Byron Nelson Classic, shooting a personal-best 62 in the first round and finishing in a tie for third place, just one shot behind American sensation Tiger Woods. Garcia dazzled the crowd on the final hole, when he took an approach shot that appeared to be blocked by trees and placed it on the green, six feet away from the pin, and then sank the putt for a birdie, or one shot under par.

In addition to his strong performance on the golf course, Garcia won over many fans with his good manners off the course. When he was introduced to Byron Nelson, the 87-year-old former champion and founder of the tournament, Garcia removed his cap and kneeled down to greet the seated older gentleman. He explained later that he could not expect such a legend of golf to look up at him.

In July 1999, Garcia achieved his first professional victory in just his sixth tournament, the Irish Open. He thus became the fourth-youngest player ever to win a PGA tournament. Garcia and his father both shaved their heads to mark the occasion. The young Spaniard followed up this success by finishing in a second-place tie in the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond. But then he encountered a major setback at the 1999 British Open. Facing a difficult course and strong winds, Garcia shot 89 and 83 in the first two rounds and was eliminated from the competition. "My good shots were turning out bad, and my bad shots were turning into triple bogeys," he remembered. Afterward, as reporters questioned his ability to hold up under the pressure of major tournaments, he ended up sobbing in his mother's arms.

Dueling with Tiger Woods at the 1999 PGA Championship

But Garcia came back strong in the next major tournament, the 1999 PGA Championship at Medinah, Illinois. When he strolled onto the course for his first tee shot, he became the youngest player to compete in the tournament in 78 years. But the young Spaniard played like a seasoned pro. In the first round, he shot a six-under-par 66 to tie the course record and take the lead by two strokes. Garcia played well over the next three days, but Tiger Woods continued his dominance in major tournaments and led by four strokes with six holes to play. Then Garcia issued a challenge by making a birdie on the 13th hole and then staring down his rival as Woods prepared to tee off. "I wanted him to know I was still there and he had to finish well to win," Garcia explained. "I did it with good feeling, not hoping he would make a triple bogey or whatever."

As it turned out, Woods started to fall apart, shooting a double bogey on 13 and a bogey on 16 to give Garcia an opening. Garcia amazed the crowd by making an unbelievable shot on the 16th hole. His drive took a bad bounce off the fairway and ended up sitting at the base of a tree, between

Garcia leaps in the air to check his ball after he hit it from the base of a tree on the 16th hole during the final round of the PGA Championship, August 1999.

two large roots. Rather than doing the safe thing—chipping out sideways away from the obstacle, then continuing on toward the green—Garcia decided to try a dangerous and aggressive shot. "I opened the club face and I made a full swing, tried to slice it," he recalled. "And when I was going on the downswing, I just closed my eyes and went backward, just in case the ball hit the tree and comes toward me. When I opened my eyes and saw the ball going to the green, I was pretty excited there." As soon as he hit the ball, Garcia sprinted out from behind the tree and ran up the fairway to see where it had gone. It ended up on the green, where he was able to knock it into the hole and save par.

Although Woods held on to win the tournament by one stroke, Garcia delighted the crowd and television audiences with his gutsy performance and his youthful exuberance. "There's no doubt in my mind that we saw something in Sergio that is absolutely electrifying and captivating," said golfing legend Ben Crenshaw. "He's magic, he's charismatic, he's graceful. When he hit that shot on number 16, he captured America's imagination and heart. That was one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen on a golf course."

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Garcia's performance at the PGA Championship qualified him to represent Europe in the 1999 Ryder Cup. In this prestigious event, which is held every two years, the best golfers from Europe face off against the best golfers from the United States in a match-play format. Although he was the youngest Ryder Cup participant ever, Garcia performed well, earning three wins and a tie for his team against only one loss. Unfortunately, he and his European teammates were narrowly defeated by the United States.

Garcia rounded out his first season as a professional by winning the German Open in October 1999. He had begun his rookie year ranked number 399 in the world, and he ended it in the top 20. He won two of the 12 events he entered on the European PGA tour. He also made the cut in 7 of the 9 American PGA tournaments he entered and finished in the top 10 four times.

The Spanish Tiger Woods

Even before the PGA Championship, Garcia had often been compared to Tiger Woods. Although Garcia took such comparisons as a compliment, he also longed to be recognized for his own accomplishments. "The comparison with Tiger, being called Europe's Tiger Woods, does not bother me. I have always said that if you are compared with good players, that means I have something good," he stated. "But I want to be recognized as Sergio Garcia."

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After the two young stars went head-to-head in the 1999 PGA Championship, many golf fans and members of the media hoped that their duel would kindle a lasting rivalry between them. "I said when I turned pro that I wanted to be the number one golfer in the world. So I knew I was going to be a rival for Tiger," Garcia said after finishing second to Woods at the PGA. "But I said I always wanted to be a rival being friends, like we did today."

Woods expressed appreciation for Garcia's talent and offered to help the young Spaniard deal with some of the pressures he had faced during his early days on the tour. "Sergio and I play a very similar way," said Woods. "We are both aggressive. We both hit the ball a long way, and we both like to be creative. He exudes confidence. One of the things I like about him is that he can take a bad shot and fuel it into a positive. It's neat to see him wear his emotions on his sleeve. The media were all over me for that, but hopefully they won't get on him. He's a wonderful kid."

Career Suffers a "Sophomore Slump"

Unfortunately, Garcia got off to a slow start in 2000 and could not equal the success of his rookie season. He failed to win a tournament in 2000, and his best performances of the year were third-place finishes at the Canadian Open and the Buick Classic. In fact, he missed the cut in two of

Garcia with Tiger Woods, December 2000.

his first four PGA appearances and only managed to finish in the top ten in five of the 16 professional events he entered. "I haven't played well. I probably only played a couple of good tournaments," he admitted. "Everyone must realize I'm still young. I, too, must gain patience. If big success does not come this year, or next, there's still no question it will happen."

Garcia did manage to defeat Tiger Woods in a one-on-one, made-for-TV event in August called "Battle of the Bighorn." But observers claimed that Garcia was not very gracious or professional in victory. For example, he failed to acknowledge the fact that Woods was feeling ill during the match, and he did a victory dance afterward that strained his relationship with his American rival.

In fact, Garcia made several mistakes in 2000 that attracted negative media attention and made some golf experts question whether he had the maturity to become a long-term success on the PGA tour. For example, he fired two respected caddies before he found one he was comfortable with in Glen Murray. Garcia was also involved in a bizarre incident at the World Match Play Championships. He became angry when his foot slipped during a tee shot, and he took off his shoe and threw it toward a billboard. The shoe narrowly missed hitting an official in the head, which earned Garcia a fine. In another incident, he stormed off the golf course at a Pro-Am event (an exhibition in which each professional golfer is paired with a well-known amateur) after a confrontation with his amateur partner. Later in the year, Garcia received another fine for verbally abusing a rules official after the official ruled against him during a tournament in Australia. Finally, Garcia began objecting to the use of his nickname, El Nino, and demanded to be called by his first name, in the manner of European soccer stars. "You have to realize I'm still pretty young," he explained after his tough year. "It's the way it goes sometimes. You have to mature, you have to learn from your mistakes."

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Winning His First Tournament on the American PGA Tour

Following his disappointing 2000 season, Garcia came back strong in 2001. After 19 months without a victory, he finally won his first tournament on the American PGA tour, the MasterCard Colonial. Garcia was three strokes down to Phil Mickelson with nine holes to go, but he reeled Mickelson in with steady play and ended up winning by two strokes. He thus became the first player born in the 1980s to win on the PGA tour. "I don't know why, but somebody wanted me to wait for this victory," he said afterward. "It's even sweeter than if I had won my first week."

At the 2001 U.S. Open, Garcia remained in contention for his first major victory going into the final round. But then he shot a disappointing 5-

over-par 77 in the final round and ended up tied for 12th place. Some observers noticed him repeatedly gripping and regripping his clubs before key shots and wondered if he was struggling under the pressure. But Garcia silenced his critics once again a few weeks later, when he captured his second American PGA victory at the Buick Classic with a record-tying total of 16-under-par 268. He went on to claim his third European PGA title at the Trophee Lancome in France, coming back from four strokes down with four holes to play to defeat Retief Goosen. Garcia rounded out his impressive 2001 season by taking the $2 million first prize at the Nedbank Golf Challenge in December.

Garcia finished the 2001 season ranked sixth in PGA Tour earnings, with $2.9 million in 18 events. He thus became the youngest player ever to top $2 million in earnings for a season. But Garcia was most proud of the fact that he led the PGA in total driving, a statistic that looks at the combination of distance and accuracy of a player's tee shots. To top off his 2001 season, Garcia signed a contract with the IMG management company, which represents many of the top names in sports.

Claiming His Place in 2002

As the 2002 season got underway, Garcia finally decided that it was time to confront people who had criticized his game. Ever since he turned professional, golf analysts had pointed out what they viewed as a flaw in his swing. They claimed that his habit of delaying the release of the club head until the last possible moment and then whipping the club into the ball to generate power would ultimately make him an inconsistent player. They said that he needed to work with a respected coach to get his swing into shape. Garcia took this criticism as a direct insult to his father, who was his first and only swing coach. "I want to make it clear that criticism of my father should stop," he said at a press conference. "My father is hurt by it. He is my father and he has always been with me. For you he is no good. When are you going to stop blaming him? I am happy about the way we work together and I am proud of what we do together."

As Garcia addressed his critics, he seemed to regain some of his former confidence in his game. He declared that his ultimate goal was to be the first player ever to end a season on top of both the European and American PGA money lists. "I want to be number one on both sides of the Atlantic," he stated. "It is my main goal for the year. I have always wanted to be a global player."

Garcia backed up his words by winning the first event of the 2002 season, the Mercedes Championships in Hawaii. He fired a 9-under-par 64 in the

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final round, including a birdie on the last hole, to force a playoff with defending PGA champion David Toms. Then, in the sudden-death playoff, he sank a 10-foot putt for par to win. Garcia finished the tournament at 18 under par and took home $720,000 in prize money. Counting his 2001 performances, it was his third tournament win in 11 tries. "Everybody was thinking, well, you got to change your swing, you are over, you better retire. I don't know what is going on. All of a sudden, it looks like I am the best player in the world. This is crazy, but it is the way it is," he stated. "To tell you the truth, I don't think I'd be this good if I wouldn't have been that bad in 2000. I learned a lot of things in 2000. It made my family come even closer than what it was, and that gave me a lot of strength."

In April 2002, Garcia played in the European tour in the Canarias Open de Espana, the Spanish Open. He looked great at the beginning, starting out with five shots clear. But he dropped shots on the fourth and the seventh holes, and then double-bogeyed on the 12th hole when he drove out of bounds. By the 14th hole his lead was down to just one shot. But he was able to hang on to the lead to take the trophy in what became his first professional victory in Spain, on home soil. "I'm very happy," he said. "It's always great to win your home open, it's something I have always been looking forward to. I did not play as well as I would have liked, but I hung in there and a win is a win. It doesn't matter how you do it. They are always going to remember that I won."

> *"People say I look like a kid out there, and as a result, I'm fun to watch. As I see it, I just let my love for the game show. I think a lot of golfers try to be someone they're not; they take themselves too seriously on the golf course. To me, that's a mistake. If you're emotional, play emotionally; if you're conservative, play conservatively, and so on. Be who you really are."*

A Force for Years to Come

Garcia averages 290 yards off the tee and hits the fairway three out of four times, making him one of the best drivers on the PGA tour. "I probably hit so far because of the way I swing," he noted. "When I was young, I was so short that I had to swing very fast. Like Indiana Jones snapping a bullwhip." Garcia is also a very strong putter, especially under pressure.

Garcia tees off at the Scottish Open, July 2001.

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Among the shortcomings that golf experts see in his game is his tendency to fidget, nervously regripping his club numerous times before striking the ball. "I feel I'm not going to hit a shot until I'm ready. If it takes me a hundred regrips, I'm going to take a hundred regrips. I don't care. If you don't like it, then don't watch," he stated. "You know, everybody has their own little methods of playing golf. You know, maybe I regrip too many times. But maybe amateurs are starting to try it, because it looks to me like it's working." Other analysts question whether Garcia can be successful in the long run without committing himself to either the American or European PGA tour. They believe that trying to play full schedules in both tours—which involves making multiple trips across the Atlantic Ocean each year—tends to take a toll on players.

> ***"I do what I love. I play golf, and if I play well, I can make a living. I don't have to be stuck in an office all day, sitting down, so I think I'm a fortunate kid. Nothing has ever intimidated me. I feel I can be the best in the world. And to be that, you can't ever think there's somebody better than you."***

On the plus side, Garcia has been credited with bringing joy back to the game of golf with his positive attitude and boyish enthusiasm. "People say I look like a kid out there, and as a result, I'm fun to watch," he noted. "As I see it, I just let my love for the game show. I think a lot of golfers try to be someone they're not; they take themselves too seriously on the golf course. To me, that's a mistake. If you're emotional, play emotionally; if you're conservative, play conservatively, and so on. Be who you really are."

Garcia looks forward to playing professional golf and winning numerous tournaments in the future. "I do what I love. I play golf, and if I play well, I can make a living. I don't have to be stuck in an office all day, sitting down, so I think I'm a fortunate kid," he stated. "Nothing has ever intimidated me. I feel I can be the best in the world. And to be that, you can't ever think there's somebody better than you."

HOME AND FAMILY

Garcia, who is not married, lives in Castellon with his parents. His success as a professional golfer enabled him to build his family a new home overlooking the country club where his parents work, with a view of the Mediterranean Sea. He enjoys taking time off from the demands of the

PGA tour to return to Spain and see his family and friends. "To leave the States and forget about the States is good for me," he noted. "It helps me a lot to go back to Spain and forget about everything. It gets me out of this world." "I think Sergio misses his home comforts and home cooking," his mother added. "And I think he enjoys a friendly fight with his brother and sister."

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

When he is not competing in golf tournaments or working out with his personal trainer, Garcia enjoys watching professional soccer matches. He is a huge fan of the Real Madrid soccer team. He also likes watching cartoons, playing video games, and practicing yo-yo tricks.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Award: 1999, for the most outstanding rookie of the European Tour

FURTHER READING

Books

Who's Who in the World, 2001

Periodicals

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Biography Resource Center Online, 2000

ADDRESS

PGA Tour
13000 Sawgrass Village Circle
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

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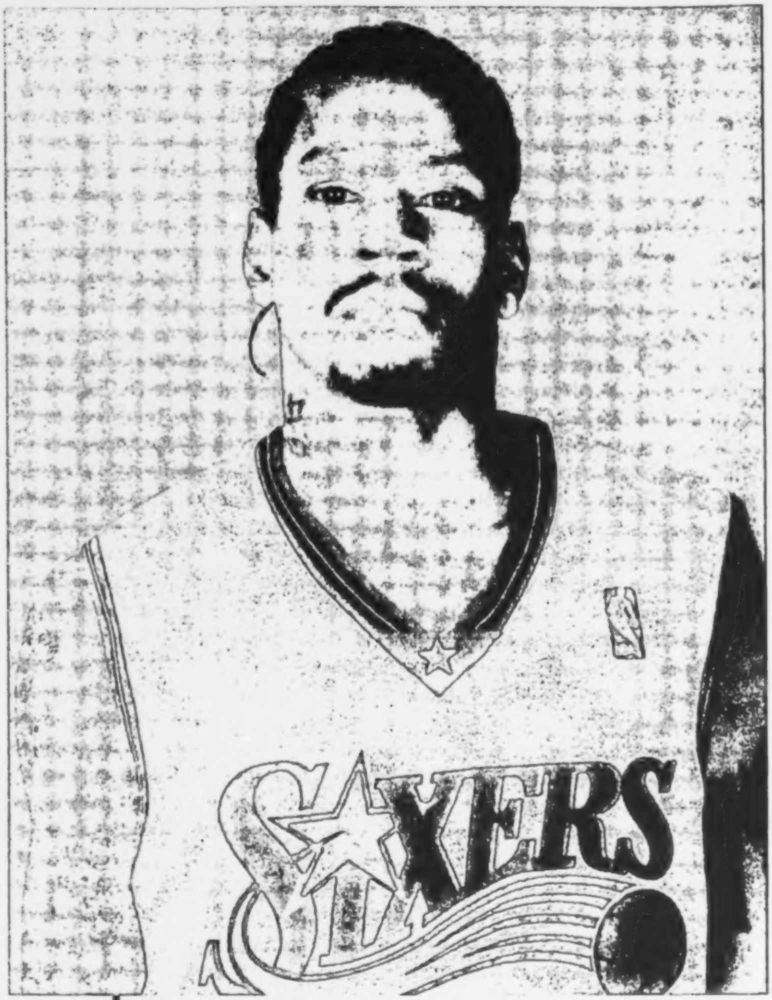

Allen Iverson 1975-

American Professional Basketball Player with the
Philadelphia 76ers
2001 NBA Most Valuable Player

BIRTH

Allen Ezail Iverson was born on June 7, 1975, in Hampton, Virginia. His mother, Ann Iverson, became pregnant with Allen when she was only 15 years old. After his birth, she worked as a factory and shipyard worker. Iverson's father, Allen Broughton, was never a part of his life. At age 17 Ann became romantically involved with Michael Freeman and they began living together. As their relationship continued, Iverson came to view Freeman as his real father. Iverson has two younger sisters who were born to his mother and Freeman—Brandy, born in 1979, and Liesha, born in 1991.

YOUTH

Iverson grew up in terrible poverty, despite his mother's efforts to provide a better life for her children. The family lived in a Hampton apartment complex that was a haven for drug dealers and other criminals. The Iverson children also endured regular interruptions in their electricity and water service, either because of mechanical problems or because their mother did not have enough money to pay the monthly bills. But while Iverson and his sisters became accustomed to days in which they could not take baths or read after dark, they dreaded the days when the complex's ancient sewer system would send raw sewage trickling into their apartment. "[It was terrible] living in a house where the sewer was busted and having to watch my sisters walk around in their shoes and socks all day because the floor was wet from the sewage," recalled Iverson. "The smell by itself was making my sisters sick."

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"[My mother] is the person I have always looked up to. I've never had a sports figure as a role model. It was always her. By her always telling me I could do something with my life, I believed her. She used to tell me I could be anything I wanted to be. Some moms in her position would have given up, but she did what it took. I feel I was raised well. I would not have wanted to be raised by anyone else or anyplace else."

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Despite being forced to raise her family in this grim environment, Ann Iverson managed to instill a sense of pride in her children. "She is the person I have always looked up to," said Iverson. "I've never had a sports figure as a role model. It was always her. By her always telling me I could do something with my life, I believed her. She used to tell me I could be anything I wanted to be. Some moms in her position would have given up, but she did what it took. I feel I was raised well. I would not have wanted to be raised by anyone else or anyplace else."

In 1991 Ann Iverson's boyfriend, Michael Freeman, was arrested and convicted of cocaine possession with intent to distribute. He spent 22 months in prison, then violated his parole after being released. (Under "parole" arrangements, prisoners are freed before serving their full sentences if they promise to behave lawfully.) He was punished for this parole violation with another 23 months of jail time.

As a result of Freeman's criminal activity and incarceration, Iverson did not have a father figure in the house for most of his high school years. Freeman's absence made it even harder for the teenager to fend off the crime and violence that swirled around him every day. Over the course of one summer, for example, eight of Iverson's friends died violent deaths. Freeman's imprisonment also convinced Iverson that he bore a heavy responsibility for his family's future. "When you're the oldest man in the house, and your mother is motherless and not much older than some of your friends, and your sister is shaking [Iverson's sister Liesha suffered from seizures], and you don't know why you're living in a dark, freezing sewer hole, it occurs to you that there is a lot riding on you," he said. "I knew I had to succeed for my family."

As he grew older, Iverson became convinced that the best route to improving his family's fortunes lay on the basketball court, where he had emerged as a high school sensation. As a youngster, though, he had avoided basketball in favor of football. "I didn't even want to play basketball at first," said Iverson. "I thought it was soft. My mother's the one who made me go to tryouts. . . . I was crying all the way out the door, and she's pushing me out. I got there and I saw all these kids who were also on my football team playing basketball. I came home and I thanked my mom. I've been playing basketball ever since."

Still, football remained Iverson's favorite sport. "I always figured I was going to go to one of those big football schools like Florida State or Notre Dame," he recalled. "Football was my first love. Still is. I was going to go to one of those schools and play both [basketball and football]. I just loved running the option, faking, throwing the ball, everything about football."

"When you're the oldest man in the house, and your mother is motherless and not much older than some of your friends, and your sister is shaking [from seizures], and you don't know why you're living in a dark, freezing sewer hole, it occurs to you that there is a lot riding on you. I knew I had to succeed for my family."

EDUCATION

Iverson attended public schools in the Hampton area. He did not excel as a student at either Aberdine Elementary School or Bethel High School. At Bethel, in fact, he skipped school on a regular basis and sometimes talked back to his teachers. Indeed, he seemed to perform just well enough in his studies to keep his athletic eligibility.

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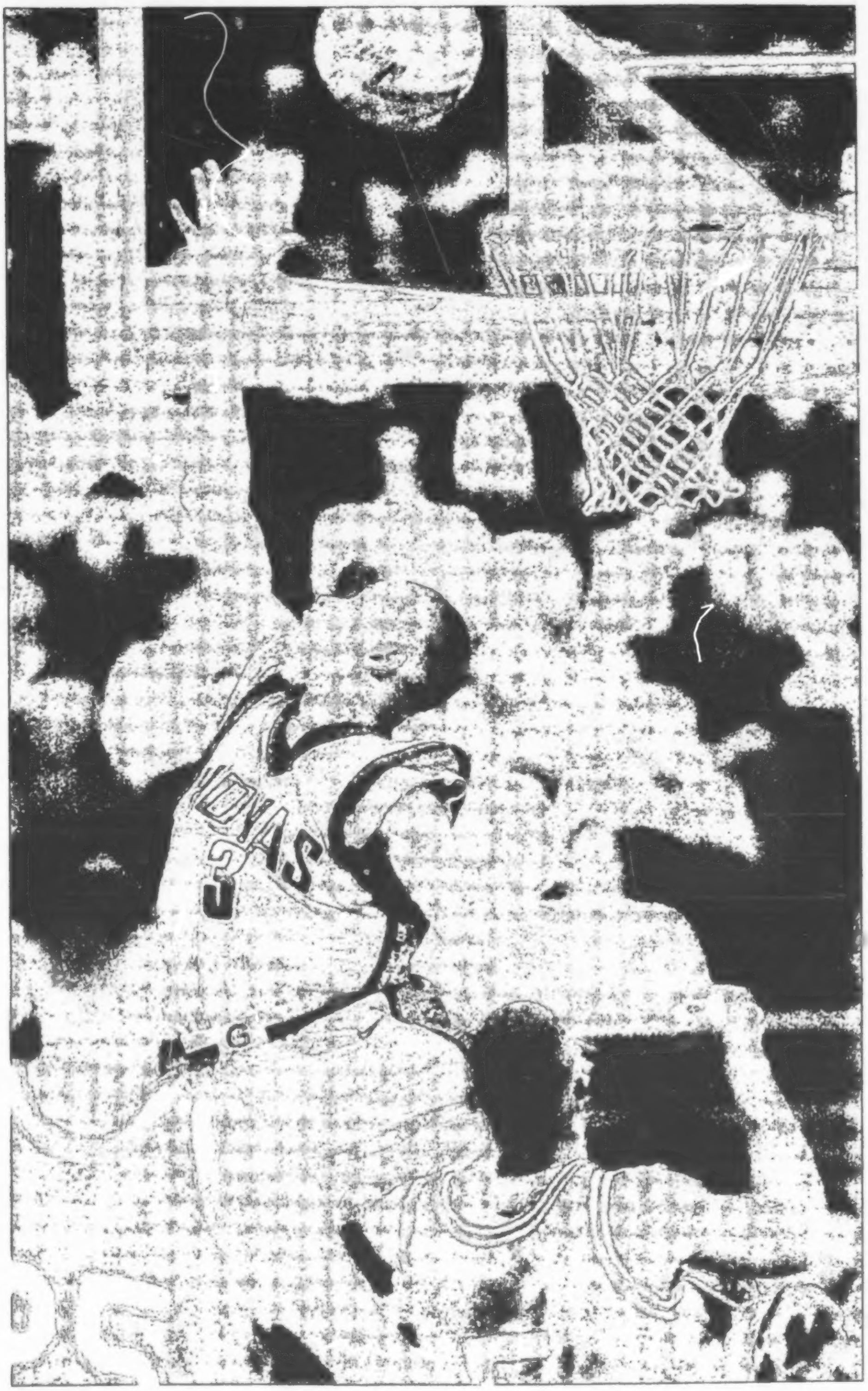
But Iverson's poor performance in the classroom did not carry over to the world of athletics. In fact, he emerged as a two-sport star by his sophomore year despite his relatively small size. During that 1991-1992 school year, Iverson's play at quarterback and safety enabled the school to drive to an undefeated regular season and its first Peninsula District football title in 15 years. One year later, the junior star scored 21 touchdowns, passed for 14 scores, and set a Virginia high school record by making five interceptions in a single game as Bethel charged to a berth in the Class AAA Division 5 State Championship. Iverson led the way in the title game as well, passing for two touchdowns, scoring two others, and intercepting two passes in a 27-0 victory.

Iverson's performance on the basketball court was just as spectacular. Three days after leading the football team to the state championship, he poured in 37 points in his first basketball game as a junior. He finished his junior season (1992-93) with a 31.6 scoring and 9.2 assist average. He then capped the season by leading the Bethel basketball squad to a state championship to match the one the school had earned in football.

Even as Iverson celebrated the basketball title, however, a dark cloud loomed over the horizon. Midway through the basketball season, he had been charged with participating in an ugly, racially tinged brawl at a local bowling alley. Now, with the basketball season behind him, his trial date was only a few weeks away.



Iverson (#3) of the Georgetown Hoyas scores on Mississippi Valley State in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament, March 1995.

Legal Problems

The bowling alley fight had erupted around midnight on February 14, 1993. Witnesses estimated that about 50 people participated in the brawl, which pitted blacks against whites. But Iverson—who was charged with the felony of "maiming by mob"—and three other black teenagers were the only people who were charged with any crime. In addition, Iverson was scheduled to be tried as an adult, even though he had no previous criminal record.

> *When Iverson's criminal conviction was reversed he expressed relief, but he also said that he would never forget the four months he spent in jail. "It taught me how important it is to believe in yourself even if others turn their back on you. It wasn't easy waking up in a cell. But it would've been easier to quit. I didn't do that. I fought through the hard times."*

During the nationally publicized trial, Iverson acknowledged that he and several black friends were at the crowded bowling alley when the fight broke out. But Iverson testified that he left the bowling alley as soon as the brawl started, and his lawyer pointed out that the alley's video camera did not show him taking part in the melee. Two white witnesses, however, testified that he assaulted at least one person during the ugly incident. He was found guilty of the charge, and in early September 1993 he was sentenced to five years in prison.

Iverson's conviction outraged Virginia's black community. They felt that an innocent young man had been thrown in jail, and they remained furious that only black people had been charged in an incident that involved both whites and blacks. Four months after Iverson was sent to prison, then-Virginia governor L. Douglas Wilder granted him clemency. This official gesture of leniency did not erase the conviction from Iverson's record, but it did enable him to go home. Still, the governor's declaration forbade the young man from playing organized sports until he graduated from high school. As a result, Iverson was forced to sit out both the football and basketball seasons at Bethel his senior year. In fact, he closed out his high school education in a private tutoring program, earning his diploma in September 1994.

Two years after Iverson was first imprisoned, his conviction was overturned (erased) by the Virginia State Court of Appeals, which ruled that there had not been enough evidence to convict him. Iverson expressed relief that his clean record had been restored. But he also indicated that he would never forget the four months he spent in jail. "It taught me how important it is to believe in yourself even if others turn their back on you," he stated. "It wasn't easy waking up in a cell. But it would've been easier to quit. I didn't do that. I fought through the hard times."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

College — Georgetown Hoyas

After Iverson's release from prison, he received a basketball scholarship offer from John Thompson, the head coach of the Georgetown University Hoyas basketball program in Washington, D.C. The star point guard accepted the offer to join the Hoyas, and in the fall of 1994 he stepped onto a basketball court as a college student-athlete for the first time. This scene delighted his mother, who had been grief-stricken during Iverson's months in jail, and many other members of his hometown community.

Iverson wasted little time in making his presence felt. Despite his youth and his absence from organized basketball for more than a year, he immediately delivered a series of sizzling performances. As the season progressed, opposing coaches and players marveled at his quickness and athleticism. They also admitted that he was often the most dominant player on the court, even though he was usually the smallest player on either team.

Ignoring catcalls from fans who called him a criminal and thug, Iverson finished the season with the fourth-best scoring average in the entire Big East Conference, at 20.4 points a game. He also led the conference in steals per game and led his team in assists. His performance, which helped the Hoyas post a 21-10 record and make an appearance in the "Sweet 16" round of the NCAA Tournament, earned him Big East Freshman of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors.

During the off-season, Iverson credited Georgetown's coach with helping him adjust to life on the college stage. "Coach Thompson was like a father figure to me," he said. "Ninety percent of having a relationship with him is things that occur off-court. He helped me. I didn't want to go to Georgetown and just do anything. Any problems that I have, I can go to him and he'll sit down and listen. It's a lot more than player-coach between us. I don't think I could have made it through last year without him."

The following year was even more rewarding for Iverson. During the summer of 1995 he and other future NBA stars like Tim Duncan and Ray Allen

Iverson pushes past LA Lakers Horace Grant during the NBA Finals, June 2001.

were selected to represent the United States at the World University Games in Japan. Iverson was the leading scorer on the USA team, which clinched the gold medal in the competition. He then led Georgetown all the way to a 29-8 record and an "Elite Eight" appearance in the NCAA Tournament before the Hoyas fell to top-ranked Massachusetts. Iverson's sophomore season was even more impressive than his freshman year. He averaged 25 points, 4.7 assists, and 3.5 steals a game, and was named to the Associated Press's All-American First Team.

Deciding to Turn Pro

At the conclusion of his sophomore season, however, Iverson faced a difficult decision. He enjoyed playing for Georgetown, where he went to bed every night in a warm and comfortable place and was surrounded by admiring fans. But his family was still living in poverty, and his youngest sister Liesha remained in the grip of seizures and other health problems. In addition, Iverson had become the father of a baby girl during his sophomore year after his girlfriend, Tawanna Turner, became pregnant.

In the end, Iverson's concerns about the welfare of his family and his baby daughter led him to announce on May 1, 1996, that he was going to declare himself eligible to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He thus became the first Hoya player to leave school early to play in the NBA in Coach Thompson's 24 years at the school.

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The Georgetown coach knew that Iverson's decision was going to change the young man's life dramatically. After a life of poverty and hardship, he was suddenly going to have millions of dollars at his disposal. For this reason, Thompson admitted that although he was very fond of his young player, he was not sure that Iverson had the maturity to handle the changes that would be coming his way in the months ahead. "I have concerns about Allen's ability emotionally and psychologically to deal with the things the NBA relates to," said Thompson. "In his basketball ability I have the ultimate amount of confidence. I'm scared about the other 22 hours [of the day]."

NBA — Philadelphia 76ers

On June 26, 1996, Iverson was the first player selected in the NBA draft by the Philadelphia 76ers. At just six feet tall, he was the shortest player ever to be selected first in the draft. But the team's management expressed confidence that they had made the right choice. "He can be the most exciting and most talented player at his position in the NBA someday," said one team executive. "He brings a winning attitude. People say he's the fiercest competitor they've ever been around. He wants to win so badly. The only thing that might get him frustrated and angry is if his teammates don't feel the same way. We love that."

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Iverson quickly signed a three-year contract worth $9.39 million with the 76ers. Around this same time, he and his agents negotiated a multimillion-dollar endorsement contract with the Reebok sneaker company. These agreements gave Iverson more money than he had ever had before and enabled him to move his family out of the Hampton projects. But he also used the money to cover himself in baggy pants, glittering gold jewelry, and tattoos (by 2001 he had 21 tattoos). He began to bankroll parties with his old friends from the projects, some of whom had criminal records.

All of these factors — combined with the public's memory of the bowling alley incident — contributed to a significant image problem for Iverson before he even played his first game for Philadelphia in the fall of 1996. Some fans and reporters saw him as a glorified thug who seemed more concerned about acting like a "gangsta" than winning basketball games. Then, when the season started, a whole new controversy erupted over the large number of shots that Iverson was taking. Observers admitted that he was an explosive scorer, but some teammates and fans grumbled that he did not pass the ball enough. This criticism increased in volume as the 76ers—who had lost 64 of 82 games the previous year—continued to struggle in the win-loss column.

By the mid-point of the 1996-97 season, some Philly fans were openly questioning the team's selection of Iverson. At one point the team lost 23 out of 24 games, and Iverson gained a reputation for missing practices. He and other young NBA stars also were criticized by some veteran stars for not having enough respect for the history of the game. But Iverson defended himself, saying that "the older guys get this idea about me from what they read in the papers. None of them have ever sat down and talked to me, and I think that's unfair. I have more love for this game than almost anyone, and that's the only thing that hurts, that they think I don't have respect for the game."

Yet throughout Iverson's rookie season, the young star showed flashes of brilliance. In each game, he made a play or two that left even his critics shaking their heads in amazement. He was the Most Valuable Player of the NBA Rookie All-Star Game and earned Rookie of the Year honors on the strength of his 23.5 points per game (ppg) scoring average. He even became the first NBA rookie ever to score 40 or more points in five consecutive games. But as the season wound down, Iverson insisted that individual glory did not matter to him. "I really don't think it's important about who scores or who does what," he said. "The most important thing is that we come out and play hard and try to win. People may not believe it, but I can go through a whole game and not score one point, but if we win the ballgame, I'm satisfied."

Philly Makes a Coaching Change

Philadelphia ended the 1996-97 season with only 20 victories, two more than it had posted during the 1995-96 season. The disappointing finish convinced the team's front office to make significant changes to the roster in an effort to improve team chemistry in the locker room and on the court. The 76ers also hired Larry Brown to be the team's new head coach.

Brown enjoyed a reputation as a great coach who was particularly talented at turning losing clubs into contenders. But he also had a history of butting heads with some of his players. Many observers wondered if the demanding coach would be able to get along with the headstrong, undisciplined Iverson. For his part, however, Iverson said that he welcomed the chance to play for Brown.

Before the season started, though, Iverson suffered another blow to his reputation. On August 3, 1997, he and two other men were pulled over

Iverson chats with Philadelphia 76ers Coach Larry Brown, December 2000.

after police clocked them driving 93 miles per hour in a 65 zone. Iverson had not been driving the car, but he owned it. So when officers found marijuana in the vehicle, they charged him with misdemeanor drug possession. The news angered and upset 76ers President Pat Croce. "As a fan, a father, and a Philadelphian, it bothers me, disappoints me, and upsets me whenever you have one of our athletes breaking the law," Croce said. "Allen is a role model. Whether they were his joints or not, he was in a situation of being in a car with marijuana. I don't want kids looking at him and thinking it's cool to smoke joints."

Coach Brown expressed similar views about the whole affair. "You can't do stuff like this," he said. "It's not acceptable for anybody, much less a guy who's a public figure and representing so many people." Iverson, though, insisted that the whole incident was just a case of poor judgement, and he promised to avoid bringing any future embarrassment to the club. He was eventually placed on three years' probation, required to undergo drug testing for two years, and required to perform 100 hours of community service.

The 76ers gradually improved during the 1997-98 season. Iverson led the team in every offensive category, and his 22 points per game scoring average placed him in the top ten in the league. But he and Brown did not always see eye to eye, and tempers flared between them every few weeks.

Iverson and Brown Struggle to Get Along

As the 1998-99 season approached, 76er fans and players alike expressed excitement about building on the success of the previous season. After all, the team had one of the league's most exciting young stars, an improving supporting cast of players, and one of the game's best coaches on the bench. In July 1998, though, two of Iverson's friends were arrested on drug possession charges while driving one of the star player's cars. One of the men was eventually charged with felony possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Iverson was never charged with any crime, but the incident cast a shadow over his name once again. It also convinced him to have a heart-to-heart talk with some of his old neighborhood buddies. "I know my friends can make things hard for me if they mess up," he admitted. "I've been embarrassed by some of the things that have happened. I don't want them to happen again, and my friends know that. They understand that if they get in some trouble and they're affiliated with me, it's going to come down on me."

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The beginning of the 1998-99 NBA season was delayed for almost three months by a labor dispute between players and owners. When the season finally began, however, Iverson took his game to another level. He thrived in a new offensive scheme that shifted him to the shooting guard spot and moved teammate Percy Snow to the point guard position. In fact, the change enabled Iverson to earn his first NBA scoring title, edging out Laker center Shaquille O'Neal for the honor with a 26.8 points per game average. "To watch what Allen does night after night at his size, it's just unbelievable," said Philly teammate Aaron McKie. "He takes a lot of shots, scores a lot of points, but we don't have egos about it. We come in every year and get everybody together and say, 'Look, we got one superstar, and everybody else should just play their roles.'"

Iverson also played in the NBA All-Star Game for the first time after fans voted him to the starting team for the Eastern Conference. This honor delighted the young guard because it suggested that the public perception of him as a selfish ball hog was beginning to change. Finally, he signed a six-year, $71-million contract extension with the 76ers at midseason that seemed to ensure that he would finish his career with the club.

But despite these individual accomplishments, Iverson and his coach clashed repeatedly over the young star's poor practice habits and free-wheeling court style, as well as Brown's habit of criticizing his young star in the newspapers. "I don't appreciate some of the things he says about me, but that's just the way it is with him," Iverson stated. "He's a great, great coach, but sometimes I feel he should talk to me in private. Sometimes I feel that he makes mistakes, too, but I wouldn't go into detail with the media about it."

But Brown refused to back down, especially on the subject of Iverson's irresponsible attitude toward team practices. "I wonder what your relationship would be with any employee you might have if he doesn't choose to come to work on time, doesn't choose to come to work at all, doesn't choose to do the things everybody else in the organization does, and then says he's upset with the way he's being treated," Brown stated at one point.

> *"If he wants to follow the rules all the other players follow, then he's not going to have a problem with me at all," Coach Brown said about Iverson. "But if it continues to be a situation where he's late, he doesn't practice, he doesn't do the things the other players do, then it's going to be a problem. I've been hearing the same conversations about 'I'm going to change and I'm going to do better' for four years. Somewhere along the line, you've got to say, 'Hey, I've got to be responsible enough and care about the team enough.' I don't know what the answer is, but I'm tired of everybody talking about my relationship with Allen Iverson."*

Iverson drives upcourt in this Eastern Conference playoff game against the Boston Celtics, April 2002.

The relationship between Iverson and Brown remained a rocky one all season long. But for the most part, they kept a lid on their differences for the common good of the team. As a result, Philadelphia surprised the league by posting a 28-22 record. They even advanced to the second round of the playoffs before being swept by the Indiana Pacers.

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After the season, Brown acknowledged that Iverson was a handful to coach. But he also freely admitted that the club never would have made such an impressive improvement without Iverson's grit and talent. "This kid, I've never seen stuff like him," said Brown. "He wants to win so bad. He's so skilled. He gets to places so fast, has so much pride. Sometimes he thinks he has to do it all by himself. But as an old coach of mine said, guys who don't make mistakes never do anything to help their team [either]."

A Possible Trade

In 1999-2000 the 76ers finished the regular season with an impressive 49-33 record. Iverson remained the team's chief threat, averaging a career-high 28.4 points per game despite a painful toe injury that bothered him for much of the season. But after knocking off the Charlotte Hornets in the first round of the playoffs, Philly's dreams of a championship were once again dashed by the Pacers in a best-of-seven series, 4-2. After the last game, Iverson struggled to hold back tears of frustration. "They taught us something tonight," he said. "We aren't closer to them because we still lost the series. I don't care that we won two games. I wanted to win four and go on to the next round. I love the heart we showed, but I've seen that all year. . . . We have to get better as a team. We have a long way to go."

As the summer of 2000 progressed, however, Iverson learned that he might not be wearing the Philadelphia uniform the following season. During the previous season, he had skipped up to 50 team practices and was late for many others. By the end of the year, Brown and 76ers team management were so fed up with Iverson's irresponsible behavior that they decided to trade him. "If he wants to follow the rules all the other players follow, then he's not going to have a problem with me at all," said Brown. "But if it continues to be a situation where he's late, he doesn't practice, he doesn't do the things the other players do, then it's going to be a problem. I've been hearing the same conversations about 'I'm going to change and I'm going to do better' for four years. Somewhere along the line, you've got to say, 'Hey, I've got to be responsible enough and care about the team enough.' I don't know what the answer is, but I'm tired of everybody talking about my relationship with Allen Iverson."

The 76ers tried to complete a complicated multi-team trade that would have sent Iverson to the Detroit Pistons, but it fell apart at the last minute. The failure of the trade gave Iverson—who loved playing in Philadelphia—an opportunity to convince Brown and team management that he would improve his work habits. Eventually, he convinced the 76ers to give him another chance.

As the 2000-2001 season approached, Iverson became the center of yet another controversy when he completed a hard-rap album that included offensive, abusive lyrics about gay people and women. The uproar over the album, which Iverson recorded under the name "Jewelz," became so great that the basketball player issued a "profound apology" to "the gay community and women of the world."

Iverson put the album controversy behind him when the 2000-2001 season tipped off. As the weeks went by, he showed a new dedication to his team and to improving all aspects of his performance. "His overall game is the best since I've been here," said Coach Brown at midseason. In February 2001, Iverson scored 25 points to lead the East to a comeback victory over the West in the All-Star Game. When he was awarded the MVP Trophy for the game, he rushed around to show Brown the award and share the spotlight with him.

Leading the Sixers to NBA Finals

By season's end, Iverson had claimed his second NBA scoring title with a 31.3 ppg average. He also led the league in steals per game (2.5) and tied for the lead in minutes played per game (42) despite playing with an assortment of injuries, including a dislocated right shoulder, a hip problem, and bursitis in his right elbow that forced him to play with a reinforced sleeve. In recognition of his great performance all season long, he became the shortest (6 feet tall) and lightest (160 pounds) Most Valuable Player (MVP) in NBA history.

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When asked about his performance and his improved work ethic, Iverson stated that "I just tried to look in the mirror and work on the things I wasn't doing right as a person and a ballplayer. I made a promise to myself that after the season I would look in the same mirror and be able to say that I did everything I could. . . . Every day, I'm just wanting to be a better basketball player, a better father—for me, not for anyone else. People say I've grown, fine. But forget about the past. My career is so much better now. I've really been scrutinized, but right now I just feel blessed."

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Iverson kisses his mother, Ann Iverson, as NBA Commissioner David Stern hands over the NBA Most Valuable Player trophy, May 2001.

beginning of the season] that after the season I would look in the same mirror and be able to say that I did everything I could. . . . Every day, I'm just wanting to be a better basketball player, a better father—for me, not for anyone else. People say I've grown, fine. But forget about the past. My career is so much better now. I've really been scrutinized, but right now I just feel blessed."

Brown, meanwhile, declared that over the course of the season he had gained a greater appreciation of Iverson's talents and desire. "He doesn't always do it the way I would expect or sometimes like," Brown said. "But I know where his heart is. This kid has great character, and he cares about people that he trusts and knows have his best interests at heart."

When the regular season concluded, Philadelphia found itself with the best record in the Eastern Conference, at 56-26. Their first foe in the 2001 playoffs was Indiana, the team that had sent them packing the previous two years. But this time, the 76ers knocked off the Pacers to advance. "This is so special," Iverson said after beating Indiana. "I know it's only the first round. I'm not acting like we won a championship, but for a team that has beaten you two years in a row, shattered your dreams, it feels good to beat them."

Philadelphia then edged past the Toronto Raptors in an entertaining series in which Iverson and Toronto star Vince Carter took turns lighting up the scoreboard. The 76ers then defeated the Milwaukee Bucks in a tough series—with Iverson pouring in 44 points in the final game of the series—to advance to the NBA Finals against the Lakers.

The Lakers were heavy favorites to smash the 76ers. But Iverson said that he felt very relaxed about the series. "Pressure?" he said. "This isn't pressure. This is basketball. This is fun. This is what I love to do. Pressure is coming from where I come from. And growing up the way I had to grow up. That's pressure."

Philadelphia stunned the Lakers in the first game, pulling out a 107-101 overtime victory with Iverson scorching the nets for 48 points. But Los Angeles won the next four games of the series to claim the championship. Looking back over the season, Iverson expressed pride in his team's performance, but he admitted that they came up short. "We drew a nice picture," he said. "We just didn't finish it."

"I haven't played the game I want to play yet. I want to be unstoppable—in every fashion. Years from now, when people are talking about Magic [Johnson] and Michael [Jordan], I want my name to be mentioned, too."

Reverting to Old Habits

Philadelphia fans had high hopes for the 76ers entering the 2001-2002 season. But injuries to Iverson and other key players dogged the team all season long, and they made a quick exit from the playoffs. On a personal level, Iverson enjoyed a great year. He led the NBA in scoring once again with an average of 31.4 ppg. He also led the league in steals (2.8 per game) and minutes played per game (43.7), and received All-Star recognition.

But observers of the team noticed that as the season progressed, Iverson lost some of the discipline that he had exhibited during the 2000-2001 season. He failed to show up for some practices and arrived late for others, just as he had done earlier in his career. Not surprisingly, this behavior helped trigger new flare-ups between the stubborn star and Coach Brown.

A few days after the 76ers were knocked out of the playoffs, Iverson called a press conference to complain about new trade rumors that were swirling around him. He expressed great affection for Brown and repeatedly praised his coaching abilities. But he also ridiculed people who criticized him for his failure to attend team practice. A few days later, Brown indicated that he was tired of battling Iverson over the issue, but that he felt that all players—and especially team leaders—should be held to the same standard. The controversy over Iverson's behavior continued unabated.

Whether Iverson finishes his career at Philadelphia or not, he will surely remain one of the league's most outstanding players for the next several years. And Iverson believes that he still has room for improvement. "I haven't played the game I want to play yet," he said. "I want to be unstoppable—in every fashion. Years from now, when people are talking about Magic [Johnson] and Michael [Jordan], I want my name to be mentioned, too."

> *Iverson admits that he sometimes spoils his children. "I just want them to grow up better than I did. I want them to have the things that I didn't have, but I want them to still have my heart. I want them to be hard as steel, just like I am, and be able to overcome some of the obstacles they are going to face in their lives."*

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Iverson married longtime girlfriend Tawanna Turner in August 2001. They have one daughter, Tiaura, and one son, Allen II, who is nicknamed Deuce. They live in Philadelphia, where Iverson admits that he sometimes spoils his children. "I just want them to grow up better than I did," he once said. "I want them to have the things that I didn't have, but I want them to still have my heart. I want them to be hard as steel, just like I am, and be able to overcome some of the obstacles they are going to face in their lives."

Iverson and his wife were in the news in the summer of 2002. According to police reports, Allen and Tawanna Iverson were involved in a fight that spanned several days, during which he threw her out of the house. Then he went looking for her. On July 3 he allegedly barged into his cousin's apartment with a gun, threatened two men who were at the apartment, and demanded to know where she was. Police charged Iverson with 14 felonies and misdemeanors, including criminal trespass, firearms violations, assault, false imprisonment, and making terrorist threats. He was arrested and released pending trial. At this time, the eventual outcome of the court case is unknown. Many of his fans continue to support him through this incident, but others have questioned whether this could have been a case of domestic violence.

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

In 2000 Iverson established the Allen Iverson Celebrity Summer Classic Foundation to promote educational, recreational, and community programs for children in Hampton Roads, Virginia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Washington, D.C. He also funds another charitable program called the Crossover Foundation, which he named for his distinctive dribbling style.

In his free time, Iverson enjoys watching movies and drawing. In fact, Sixers teammate Matt Geiger says that Iverson "draws pictures of everybody. Great caricatures. One night we were at a restaurant . . . and they brought out some pens, and we started drawing pictures of each other. Then he started drawing ones of everybody on the team. I got about six of 'em in my house. I'm putting them in a frame. They're pretty good."

HONORS AND AWARDS

Big East Freshman of the Year: 1994
Big East Defensive Player of the Year: 1994, 1995
All-American, First Team (Associated Press): 1995
NBA Rookie of the Year: 1997
Most Valuable Player, NBA Rookie All-Star Game: 1997
NBA Scoring Title: 1999, 2001
NBA All-Star: 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
Most Valuable Player, NBA All-Star Game: 2001
NBA Most Valuable Player (*Sporting News*): 2001
NBA Player of the Year (*Basketball Digest*): 2001

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Philadelphia 76ers
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Philadelphia, PA 19148

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Shirley Muldowney 1940-

American Drag Racer
First Woman Licensed to Drive a Top Fuel Dragster
Three-Time NHRA Winston World Champion

BIRTH

Shirley Muldowney was born as Shirley Roque on June 19, 1940, in Burlington, Vermont. Her father, Belgium Benedict Roque, was a taxi driver and professional boxer under the name Tex Rock. Her mother, Mae Roque, was a laundress. Shirley had one older sister.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Muldowney grew up in Schenectady, New York, a manufacturing community not far from the state capital of Albany. Her father taught her to be tough in order to survive in their working-class neighborhood. When he heard that a bully was picking on her at school, for example, he told her, "You pick up a board, you pick up a pipe, you pick up a brick, and you part their hair with it." Her mother remembered that Shirley took this advice to heart and started standing up for herself: "There was no more coming home beat up. She went out and took care of herself."

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Muldowney attended Nott Terrace High School in Schenectady, but she never liked school and was an indifferent student. She started cutting classes at age 13 in order to spend time with Jack Muldowney, a local teen who was interested in hot rods and street racing. "Jack was a member of a car group—I won't say gang—but a car club," she recalled. "I had eyes for Jack, and I wanted to be part of this recreation. They would street race a bit, and that was how I got started."

Muldowney loved driving her boyfriend's car, a 1951 Mercury. "All souped up, lots of carburetors—it was a street-racing machine," she noted. Before long, she began sneaking out of her parents' house at night to go street racing. "I raced on the back streets when the police weren't looking," she admitted. In 1956, at the age of 16, Muldowney dropped out of high school and married Jack. Before agreeing to the marriage, her father made her promise to get her high school diploma at some point in the future. She fulfilled this promise in 1964, when she passed the high school equivalency exam.

Shortly after her marriage, Muldowney bought her first car, a 1940 Ford coupe. Her husband installed a souped-up Cadillac engine in it, and young men came from miles around to race against her. She soon gained a reputation as one of the fastest and most daring drag racers in New York State. In 1958, the Muldowneys had a son, John. When she was not taking care of the baby or street racing, Shirley worked in the kitchen of a car-hop restaurant where hot rod fans would hang out.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Getting Involved in Professional Drag Racing

Drag racing was first organized as a professional sport in the early 1950s. The most prominent governing body of drag racing, the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), held its first championship in 1955. In drag racing, two specially prepared cars race side-by-side down a straight, quarter-mile-long, paved track. Before the race begins, the two cars stand still behind the starting line and the drivers watch the starting lights on a device called a "Christmas tree." When the red lights change to green, the drivers hit the gas pedal and race to the finish line. The first car to cross the finish line wins. Drag race events usually consist of a series of preliminary heats in which the fastest cars qualify for the finals. The finals are conducted as elimination heats, so the winner of each heat advances to the next round of competition, while the loser goes home. The last unbeaten car in each class of dragster wins the event.

Modern dragsters have very little in common with regular cars. They are equipped with huge, 3,000-horsepower engines that burn explosive fuels like nitromethane. They commonly reach speeds over 300 miles per hour and complete the quarter-mile race in under five seconds. Although they are equipped with brakes, they need the help of parachutes to slow down when the race is over. Drivers who compete in drag races need courage, strength, and quick reflexes to control the cars. "People think it's easy because you drive in a straight line," Muldowney noted. "What they don't realize is that you've got to react in a hurry. The whole thing's over in just a little more than five or six seconds — if you're good."

After earning a name for herself as a street racer, Muldowney began competing in amateur and semi-professional drag racing events. Although she raced a light schedule at first due to the demands of caring for her young son, she still managed to make a little money in various competitions. In 1965, Muldowney became the first woman licensed to compete in NHRA drag races. She wanted to try to make a career for herself as a professional drag racer. But her husband, who had prepared her car for the amateur events, was not interested in moving up to the next level. As a result, Muldowney and her husband separated in 1969. She then moved from Schenectady to Mt. Clemens, Michigan, and started her own drag racing team.

A 1965 photo of Shirley Muldowney in her first dragster, which was hand-built by her first husband, Jack Muldowney (shown at right). An unnamed racing official stands in the background.

Facing Sexist Attitudes

When Muldowney first started competing on the NHRA circuit, she did not receive much support from race organizers, fans, or her fellow drivers. Most people had never seen a female drag racer before, and some people felt that the sport was no place for a woman. In fact, Muldowney often heard boos from the crowd when her name was announced. But she was determined to overcome such negative attitudes and prove that she could be a competitive drag racer. "I knew I had the things necessary to be a success, but getting the guys to respect me took time," she stated.

Rather than downplaying her gender and trying to be one of the boys, Muldowney decided to flaunt her femininity in order to attract publicity. For example, she painted her car hot pink and put the nickname "Cha Cha" on the side. Before she climbed into her car for the start of a race, she would often make a big production of filing her nails or putting on lipstick. Her actions did not make her popular among her male competitors. "I'm hard on men, I like to beat their drums," she admitted. "All of them, every single one of them, when they come to that starting line, they're afraid. Not because I'm a woman, but because they know we're good — the whole team. They're scared to death of us."

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When Muldowney did well at a race, her competitors would attribute her success to everything but skill. They claimed that she had an advantage because of her small size, for example, or they said that her crew did all the work. "I always knew this wouldn't be an easy profession. But the attitudes against me didn't bother me," Muldowney said. "Trying to hold on to a 1,700 pound car with a 2,000 horsepower engine is hard work, and anyone that says different is out of his mind." Even her harshest critics had to admit that she was an expert starter, however, as she routinely posted the lowest reaction times at the starting line. Over time, she also gained the support of race promoters as they began to notice that more women attended the races when she was competing.

Moving Up from Funny Cars to Top Fuel Dragsters

Muldowney completed her first few seasons of NHRA competition in a Top Gas dragster. When this classification of car was phased out in 1971, she switched to Funny Cars. These dragsters had tubular chassis surrounded by fiberglass bodies that were supposed to look like souped-up production

An event from the 1970s.

cars. The engines, which burned the highly explosive liquid fuel nitromethane, were placed in front of and beneath the drivers. This situation made Funny Cars both difficult and dangerous to drive. If the engine came apart—as often happened when the cars were pushed to their limits—it could ignite the fuel and turn the car and driver into a ball of fire.

In 1972, Muldowney divorced her husband and began collaborating with fellow racer Conrad "Connie" Kalitta. At first, Kalitta prepared and maintained Muldowney's car as well as his own. They often competed in one-on-one exhibitions called "match races" against each other at small-town race tracks. Muldowney raced in the Funny Car class for three years and enjoyed modest success. In fact, she won the first Funny Car event she entered in Lebanon Valley, New York. However, she was also involved in several bad fires, including one that burned her face in 1973. "My helmet was blazing," she recalled. "It burned the goggles right off my face." Muldowney underwent plastic surgery that largely concealed the scars from the fire, but she always wore tinted glasses when she appeared in public from that time on.

In 1974, Muldowney moved up to the premier class of Top Fuel dragsters. These sleek racing machines are 24 feet long and shaped like an arrow. They have huge, slick racing tires on the back and tiny, narrow motorcycle tires on the front. The engine, which burns a potent combination of nitromethane and methanol, sits behind the driver for added safety. After completing her licensing runs at Cayuga Dragway Park in Ontario, Canada, Muldowney became the first woman ever licensed to drive an NHRA Top Fuel dragster. Three of the biggest names in drag racing witnessed her test runs and signed her license: Don Garlits, Connie Kalitta, and Tommy Ivo. "I was always very proud of that," she stated.

Once Muldowney began competing in Top Fuel, Kalitta retired from driving in order to become her full-time crew chief. The two also started a highly volatile romantic relationship. Don Garlits, known by the nickname "Big Daddy," soon became Muldowney's biggest rival. Garlits had been involved in professional drag racing from the beginning and helped design the first Top Fuel cars. He was at the peak of his driving career when Muldowney came along. Although race promoters liked to hype the rivalry in order to bring fans to the track, their marketing claims had a strong basis in reality. Both drivers freely admitted that they did not particularly like the other. In fact, Garlits had a dartboard with Muldowney's picture on it in his home, and he displayed a running total of his victories over her on the side of his race trailer.

Winning the NHRA Winston World Championship

In 1975, at the NHRA Spring Nationals, Muldowney became the first woman to advance to the finals at an NHRA Top Fuel event. A few months later, she became the first woman to break the five-second barrier for a quarter-mile drag race, posting a time of 5.98 seconds. Muldowney won her first NHRA national event at the 1976 Spring Nationals. She also posted the top speed (243.9 miles per hour) and lowest elapsed time (5.96 seconds) of the event. In October of that year, she won her second national event at the NHRA World Finals. She posted her fastest runs of the season during this event, 5.77 seconds and 249 miles per hour.

In drag racing, drivers earn points based on their finish at each event they drive during the season. Finishing well at national drag racing events is important because the top drivers collect points. At the end of the season, the points are totaled and the winner is awarded the NHRA Winston World Championship. Although she only raced in four of the eight NHRA national events in 1976, Muldowney still finished 15th in points for the season. In recognition of her strong performance, she was voted Top Fuel Driver of the Year by *Drag News*.

Muldowney picked up where she left off during the 1977 season. At a race in Arizona in January, she became the second drag racer ever to break 250 miles per hour. She went on to win three consecutive NHRA national events that year on her way to claiming the Winston World Championship for Top Fuel. Muldowney was the first (and remains the only) woman ever to capture an NHRA season points title. In October 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives presented her with an outstanding achievement award for her efforts. She was once again named *Drag News* Driver of the Year, and she also received Person of the Year honors from *Car Craft*.

Shortly after winning the championship, Muldowney ended her stormy relationship with Connie Kalitta. "Those years with Connie were so hard," she recalled. "The tears used to come right down my cheeks, I was so mad at him." Kalitta returned to driving his own car, while Muldowney promoted her mechanic Rahn Tobler to crew chief. One member of her crew was her son, John, who had enjoyed working on cars and attending races since he was a boy.

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> ***Muldowney was surprised and disappointed that winning the championship did not bring her more financial rewards, including a big corporate sponsor. "I went after the championship because I was sure it would bring me a big sponsor. Well, it didn't happen. My sponsors said, do it one more time and we'll give you more money. That really changed my attitude. I broke my back to win, and now I feel like I'm starting all over from scratch."***
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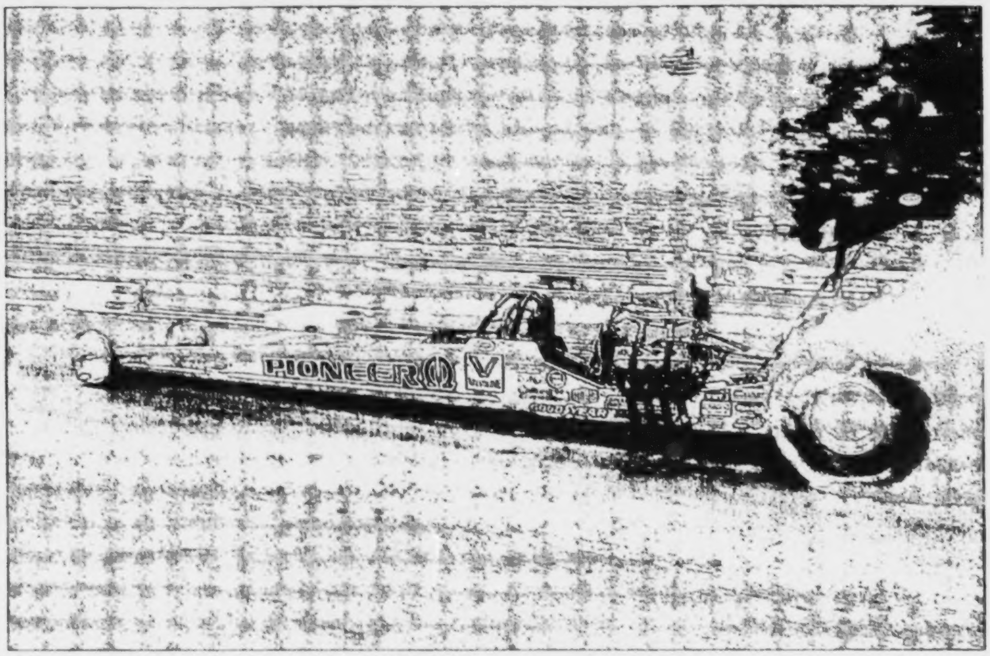
Proving Herself with Two More Championships

Muldowney was surprised and disappointed that winning the championship did not bring her more financial rewards. She expected her strong performance to attract a big-name corporate sponsor for her racing effort. Most race drivers get corporate sponsors to pay for fuel, transportation, and car maintenance expenses in exchange for advertising on the car. These types of arrangements are necessary due to the high cost of preparing and maintaining a competitive race car. "I went after the championship because I was sure it would bring me a big sponsor. Well, it didn't happen," she said at the time. "My sponsors said, do it one more time and we'll give you more money. That really changed my attitude. I broke my back to win, and now I feel like I'm starting all over from scratch."

Without a sponsor, Muldowney could not afford to run a full NHRA season, which she needed to do if she hoped to compete for the points title.



A race from 1983.

She blamed her failure to find a sponsor on sexist attitudes, but her competitors attributed it to her fiery personality. In any case, Muldowney struggled for the next few seasons after Kalitta left her race team. She spent much of her time competing in match races, which offered higher cash prizes than NHRA events and put less wear and tear on her car.

Muldowney came roaring back in 1980, however, when she won four NHRA national events on her way to claiming her second Winston World Championship. At the time, she was the only driver ever to win two points titles in Top Fuel. To add to her amazing achievements for the year, she raced in several events sponsored by the American Hot Rod Association (AHRA) and nearly took the AHRA title as well, finishing second in points for the season. The following year, Muldowney concentrated on AHRA events and won that organization's 1981 season championship. She also managed to finish in the top five in NHRA points that year. In 1982, Muldowney won four NHRA national events to claim an unprecedented third Winston World Championship. She was once again named Top Fuel Driver of the Year by *Drag News* and also made the *Car Craft* All-Star Team.

Muldowney finally received some of the public recognition she craved in 1983, when a film was made about her life. Entitled *Heart Like a Wheel,* the movie starred Bonnie Bedelia as Muldowney and Beau Bridges as

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her boyfriend and crew chief Connie Kalitta. It received positive reviews from film critics and earned a Golden Globe Award nomination. Muldowney acted as a technical consultant for the film, which follows her career from her teenage street-racing days through her third NHRA Winston World Championship. Although drag racing is important to the story, the movie focuses on Muldowney's personal relationships and her struggle to gain respect in a male-dominated sport. "I thought we would end up with a racing film," she noted. "And I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think it was good for the sport. But not everyone is a racing enthusiast, so to tell a story that would touch many people, we had to tell more than a racing story. I think the movie does that very well."

Tragedy Strikes Muldowney at the Peak of Her Career

In 1984, Muldowney was at the peak of her career. She had just claimed her third NHRA Winston World Championship and served as the subject of a popular Hollywood film. But tragedy struck during an NHRA event in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The front tire of her dragster failed, causing the innertube to wrap around the axle. The steering wheel jerked out of her hands, and the car suddenly veered left and plowed into an embankment at 250 miles per hour. The impact caused the dragster to disintegrate until all that was left was a section of the steel roll cage that protects the driver.

> *After the crash, Muldowney remembered that "I opened my eyes, saw the grass and the blue sky and said to myself, 'My God, I came out of the car but I'm still alive.' Well, I didn't come out of the car. That's all that was left of it."*

Rahn Tobler, Muldowney's crew chief and future husband, recalled the aftermath of the crash: "When we got to the end of the track all we saw was a hole in the fence where she'd gone through. We were looking for what was left of the car because we figured she would be in it. But there wasn't any car around. She was about 100 yards beyond where we were looking. A man who had seen her tumbling pointed her out to us. Everything, Shirley, the pieces of the car, everything was the same color, muddy brown. The biggest piece of the entire car was the seat she was sitting in and it wasn't more than three feet wide." Muldowney remembered that "I opened my eyes, saw the grass and the blue sky and said to myself, 'My

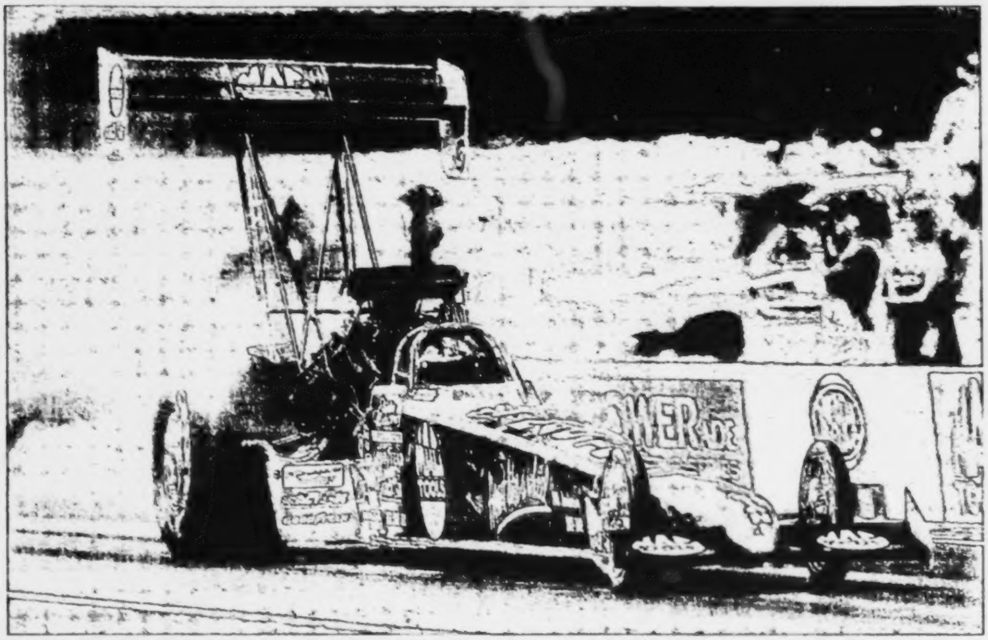
God, I came out of the car but I'm still alive.' Well, I didn't come out of the car. That's all that was left of it."

Although Muldowney lived through the terrible accident, she was critically injured. The roll cage had broken off at her hips, leaving her legs exposed. As a result, she suffered compound fractures of both legs as well as a broken pelvis, and one of her feet was nearly severed. In addition, she had several broken fingers and a severed thumb. Yet she counted herself lucky that she did not suffer severe head injuries in the crash. "My helmet protected me," she noted. "When it was sent to Bell [the helmet manufacturer] for diagnostic tests, they showed the impact on the helmet was the equivalent to a four-story drop."

Once Muldowney reached the hospital, it took doctors six hours to clean the dirt and gravel out of her wounds before they could begin to operate. She stayed in the hospital for four months and underwent six different surgeries. She then went home and started an 18-month process of recovery and rehabilitation. The only lasting result of the accident was that one of her legs ended up slightly shorter than the other. She still walks with a limp, and she was forced to give away her collection of more than 60 pairs of high-heeled shoes.

> *Doctors told Muldowney that she would never race again. But she refused to accept their diagnosis. "I'm miserable on race days. . . . I want to be out there where the smell of oil is like perfume. Driving is a way of life for me, my bread and butter. And I'm not interested in doing anything else right now. I wasn't ready to give up the cockpit. I was forced out of it. The accident took a lot out of me, but it didn't kill my will to win. Anybody who's counting me out is dreaming."*

Muldowney's crash also led to several positive changes in the sport of drag racing. For example, the NHRA enacted new rules for safer guard rails, and the Goodyear tire company developed a new kind of tubeless tire specifically for drag racing. Her accident also inspired the formation of the Drag Racing Association of Women (DRAW), an organization that helps injured racers and their families. Finally, the crash helped thaw relations between Muldowney and her biggest rival, "Big Daddy" Don Garlits. Garlits was very upset by her situation and offered sympathy as well as money to help pay her medical bills.



Making a Comeback

A short time after her accident, doctors told Muldowney that she would never be able to race again. But she refused to accept their diagnosis and grew determined to make a comeback as a professional drag racer. "There's a terrible void. I'm miserable on race days. Everybody is having fun on qualifying day and I'm dragging around on crutches. I'm getting tired of sitting around answering fan mail and watching television. I want to be out there where the smell of oil is like perfume," she explained. "Driving is a way of life for me, my bread and butter. And I'm not interested in doing anything else right now. I wasn't ready to give up the cockpit. I was forced out of it. The accident took a lot out of me, but it didn't kill my will to win. Anybody who's counting me out is dreaming."

Muldowney finally returned to competition in 1986. She experienced a scary moment during her very first race, when her parachutes became tangled. For a few seconds she was afraid that she would crash again, but she remained calm and managed to stop the car using brakes alone. The American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association (AARWBA) recognized her gutsy performance during the 1986 season by naming her their Comeback Driver of the Year.

Although Muldowney returned to competition, it took her a while to regain her previous form. In fact, she did not win a race for the next three years. But this period of her life also brought her happiness. In 1988, she married her longtime crew chief, Rahn Tobler. The following year, Tobler recruited Don Garlits to act as an advisor to Muldowney's race team. The partnership turned out to be a successful one, much to the amazement of the former rivals. "If you had told me 10 years ago that I would be over here trying to make her go fast, I would have laughed," Garlits stated. "Laid on the ground and kicked my feet and laughed." For her part, Muldowney admitted that "Garlits definitely helped us on the road back. It was a team deal. We all put our heads together and took our ideas, and his ideas, and came up with a combination of everything."

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> *Muldowney is now a fan favorite who draws thousands of admirers to every race she enters. Many of her biggest fans are young girls who are captivated by her trademark pink car. "I would be a fool if I didn't paint the car pink. The pink car stands out. The pink car is known. Little girls love it; they come up to me and squeeze me around the legs. It's part of an image, that's all the color is. It's feminine."*
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With the help of Garlits, Muldowney had a good year in 1989. She won her first NHRA event since the accident, and she advanced to the final round in three other events. She also broke the four-second barrier with a run of 4.974 seconds and 284 miles per hour. Muldowney finished in the top ten in points during both the 1989 and 1990 seasons, but then she left the NHRA circuit. She was still having trouble finding a sponsor, so it was too expensive for her to run a full NHRA schedule and compete for a championship.

Muldowney spent most of the early 1990s competing in match races, in which she would face off against other individual competitors over a series of heats. She ended up setting 12 track records across the country during these years. In 1995, Muldowney began competing in events sponsored by the International Hot Rod Association (IHRA). The following year, she won three consecutive national events and finished second in IHRA points for the season.

In 1997, Muldowney set national drag racing speed records several times, finishing the year with a top speed of 303.71 miles per hour. She was also honored as one of the top athletes of the past 25 years by the U.S. Sports Academy, based on the results of a poll by CNN/*USA Today*. In 1998, Muldowney set new IHRA records for elapsed time (4.69 seconds) and speed (312.5 miles per hour). She was also honored by the New York State Senate as one of 30 women of distinction.

Muldowney celebrated her 60th birthday in 2000, but she did not let her age slow her down. In fact, she competed in a special match race against Tony Schumacher, the 30-year-old reigning NHRA champion. Muldowney not only won the race against young Schumacher, she posted a quicker reaction time at the starting line. She also appeared at the 2000 U.S. Nationals, which was her first NHRA event in eight years. She qualified for the finals and ended up matched against Doug Kalitta, the nephew of her former crew chief and boyfriend. At first it appeared that Muldowney was going to win, but then her front tires lifted off the ground and her car crossed the center line of the track, giving Kalitta an automatic victory.

> *"[Drag racing] has done marvelous things for me if you consider that I was a kid with a lack of supervision and a lack of education. It gave me a lot of nice things and took me to a lot of nice places. I've made a lot of wonderful friends and had a lot of fun. . . . Without drag racing, I can only imagine where I would be today. I only pray that I have done as much for this sport as it has done for me."*

A Drag Racing Legend

With a career spanning nearly 40 years, Muldowney has become a drag racing legend. She is widely considered to be one of the best drivers ever to sit behind the wheel of a dragster. "I don't think anyone can say she's not among the most important figures in drag racing history," said IHRA President Bill Bader. "The thing is, she was so intense about it, so serious. She was passionate about racing. It wasn't something she was playing at. She made sure it wouldn't ever look like she was a novelty."

Unlike the early days of her career, Muldowney is now a fan favorite who draws thousands of autograph-seeking admirers to every race she enters. Many of her biggest fans are young girls who are captivated by her trademark pink car. "I would be a fool if I didn't paint the car pink. The pink car stands out. The pink car is known," she explained. "Little girls love it; they come up to me and squeeze me around the legs. It's part of an image, that's all the color is. It's feminine."

Muldowney not only opened the door for women to compete in motor sports, but also inspired a generation of girls to pursue their athletic dreams. By the late 1990s, fans could see up to a dozen women competing in various classes at any NHRA national event. Five women had posted victories at such events through the 1998 season. "Shirley was the one that helped women in all motor sports," said Top Fuel driver Shelly Anderson. "She made sponsors realize women could be successful."

Although Muldowney is pleased that she made an impact on her sport, she sometimes seems resentful of women who walk through the door that she opened. "I'm a bit of a toughie, and I had to be in the early days or I would not have survived. I like to think I made it easier for other ladies, but maybe I made it too easy, because now they license people who simply did not earn it," she stated. "Some women who came after I did claimed to be racers and tuners, and claimed to know everything. One of them is a commentator, and I can't believe the mistakes she makes. Yes, she won a race or two, but I'm talking about consistency and championships. Nobody has done it like I have."

Though she suffered disappointments and setbacks along the way, Muldowney is grateful for her long career in professional drag racing. "The good outweighed the bad by leaps and bounds. I am extremely fortunate to have done what I've done . . . to drive one of these wonderful cars," she noted. "[Drag racing] has done marvelous things for me if you consider that I was a kid with a lack of supervision and a lack of education. It gave me a lot of nice things and took me to a lot of nice places. I've made a lot of wonderful friends and had a lot of fun. . . . Without drag racing, I can only imagine where I would be today. I only pray that I have done as much for this sport as it has done for me."

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Shirley Muldowney has been married twice. She married her first husband, Jack Muldowney, when she was 16 years old. They had one son together, John, who was born in 1958. Muldowney and her first husband separated in 1969 and divorced in 1972. She was involved in a long-term relationship with former driver and crew chief Connie Kalitta, but they never married. Then, in 1988, she married her longtime crew chief, Rahn Tobler. "He stuck with me through thick and thin in a lot of things," she revealed. "He is someone who really has been in my corner."

Muldowney moved from her hometown of Schenectady, New York, to Mt. Clemens, Michigan, after she separated from her first husband. She relocated to Northridge, California, in 1985, and lived there until a major earthquake convinced her to move. Since 1994 she has lived in an antiques-filled house in Armada, Michigan, about 40 miles north of Detroit.

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

Muldowney's main hobby is shooting. Her favorite gun is a custom-made .243 caliber target rifle.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Auto Racing All-America Team (American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association): 1975, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982
Top Fuel Driver of the Year (*Drag News*): 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982
NHRA Winston World Championship: 1977, 1980, 1982
Outstanding Achievement Award (U.S. House of Representatives): 1977
Person of the Year (*Car Craft*): 1977
AHRA World Championship: 1981
Jerry Titus Memorial Award (American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association): 1982
Comeback Driver of the Year (American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association): 1986
Motorsports Hall of Fame: 1990
Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Courage Award (United States Sports Academy): 1992
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ADDRESS

P.O. Box 248
Armada, MI 48005

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Ty Murray 1969-

American Professional Rodeo Cowboy
Seven-Time Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
World All-Around Champion

BIRTH

Ty Murray was born on October 11, 1969, in Phoenix, Arizona, into a family of cowboys. He is a fourth-generation cowboy—his father, uncles, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all cowboys, too. His father, Butch, was a professional rodeo cowboy for a while. He also made a living breaking horses, teaching them to accept a rider and saddle. He later worked as a starter at a horse-racing track in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Even his mother, Joy Murray, won the National Little Britches Rodeo bull-riding championship as a girl. Ty has two older sisters, Kim and Kerri.

YOUTH

Murray grew up as part of a close-knit family. During his childhood, they lived in a trailer on two acres of land in Glendale, Arizona. He knew that he wanted to be a cowboy from an early age. "I was born a cowboy. My parents have always said that, and I guess I believe them because that's all I ever wanted to be," he stated. "I never, not even for a day or two, wanted to be the president, a doctor, or an astronaut. Rodeo's all I've ever thought about."

Murray started practicing for his eventual career during his toddler years. He started out by trying to ride the case for his mother's sewing machine. "When Ty started walking, we got him a pair of spurs," his father recalled. "He plumb wore his mom's sewing machine case out from sitting on that sucker and spurring it." As he got a little older, he graduated to riding the arm of the couch and then to his first real horse, an Appaloosa named Doc. "Old Doc was a godsend," he remembered. "He was cool. He never got in too big a hurry, and when I tried to get him to do things that would have gotten me hurt or disqualified, he ignored me."

> *"I was born a cowboy. My parents have always said that, and I guess I believe them because that's all I ever wanted to be. I never, not even for a day or two, wanted to be the president, a doctor, or an astronaut. Rodeo's all I've ever thought about."*

By the age of two, Murray had begun practicing his roping skills on the family dog, Freckles. His parents also allowed him to ride calves around their corral. His father would run alongside the calf and hold onto Ty's belt loops to keep him from taking a hard fall, while his mother would count off eight seconds as if he were competing in a rodeo. "Back in those early days, Mom counted out eight alligators, then blew a make-believe whistle to let me know it was time to get off," he recalled. "If it looked like I was getting bucked off early, she counted faster so I'd make the whistle. She was always looking for ways to boost my confidence like that. My parents believed in me so much that I believed in myself."

By the time Murray turned eight years old, he was helping his father break horses. He rode his first bull the following year in a Little Britches Rodeo, a competition for youngsters. Although this first bull just loped casually around the ring, Murray soon learned that the sport of bull riding would not always be so easy. His second bull bucked him off and then stepped on his face, breaking his jaw. His mouth was wired shut for two months afterward, so that the only food he could consume was milkshakes. "If I didn't really love [rodeo], I'd have gotten out of it right then," he noted.

When Ty broke his jaw, some people thought that Butch Murray should make his son give up rodeo. "If your kid was nine and he broke his leg skiing, would you make him give it up?" he responded. "To me, it was something we could all do together, a family deal, a real positive thing. You don't see many bad kids leading a horse around."

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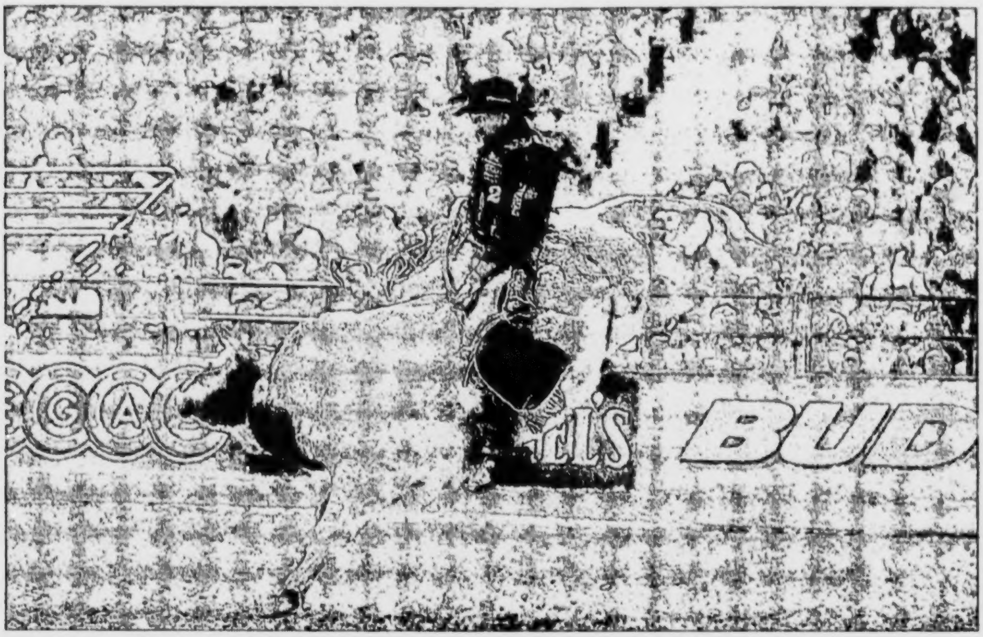
Junior Rodeos

The Murrays attended junior rodeos nearly every weekend for the next few years. When Ty was 13, his performance at a junior rodeo attracted the attention of Larry Mahan, a rodeo legend. Mahan had won the most sought-after prize among professional cowboys—the world all-around championship from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA)—a record six times during the 1970s. Impressed with Murray's skill and determination, Mahan invited the young man to spend part of the summer at his ranch in Colorado. Thrilled at the opportunity to spend time with one of his heroes, Murray followed Mahan everywhere and learned a great deal from him. "I didn't learn hardly anything from him about riding that summer, but I learned a lot about people, and I think that's helping me now," he said years later.



Murray rides a bull during the Pro Bull Riders Bud Light Cup, February 2001.

When he was not competing in rodeos, Murray spent nearly all of his time training to become a rodeo champion. His self-designed training program included rodeo-related elements, such as practicing on a mechanical bull and spending time on horseback, as well as some general fitness training, such as running five miles per day and lifting weights for two hours on alternate days. But Murray's training program also included some unusual activities. For example, he would walk on top of a fence rail for miles to improve his balance. He also learned to ride a unicycle to improve his coordination, and he studied martial arts to improve his concentration. Finally, he studied gymnastics in order to gain better control of his body. "Gymnastics did a lot for me, even though I didn't compete in it," he recalled. "It kept me in great shape, and gave me a lot of strength and balance. In my eyes, gymnasts are the greatest athletes in the world pound-for-pound. There's nobody stronger or more flexible, and doing gymnastics makes you catty. It taught me to fly through the air and land on my feet."

EDUCATION

Murray attended public schools near Phoenix. When he was in the fifth grade, his teacher handed out a questionnaire asking students what they would do if they could do anything in life. Murray responded that he would beat Larry Mahan's record of six world all-around rodeo championships.

Murray competed in rodeo at both the high school and college levels. In 1987, during his senior year at Deer Valley High School, he won the National High School Rodeo all-around title. After graduating from high school in 1988, he went on to attend Odessa College in Texas. Murray led Odessa to the National College Finals Rodeo in 1989, where he won the saddle bronc riding and bull riding events and also took the all-around title. He completed his two-year degree in rodeo that year as well.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Becoming a Profession Rodeo Cowboy

Murray became a professional rodeo cowboy in 1988, while he was still in college (rodeo rules allow cowboys to compete at the college and professional levels at the same time). Professional rodeo was big business when he started out, and it has grown in popularity since then. The PRCA organizes more than 700 rodeos across North America each year, which are attended by over 20 million fans and watched by millions more on the ESPN and TNN cable television channels.

The most prestigious PRCA event is the National Finals Rodeo (NFR), which is held in December of each year in Las Vegas, Nevada. Only the top 15 competitors in each rodeo event qualify for this 10-day "Super Bowl" of rodeo, which offers more than $2 million in prize money. "The NFR is what you live for when you're a professional cowboy," Murray explained. "It's the big time, the ultimate, the epitome of the sport. It's what keeps you from pulling over to the side of the road when you're driving all night to get to the next rodeo." The highlight of the NFR is the crowning of the world all-around champion. This coveted title goes to the cowboy who wins the most prize money in a year while competing in two or more events.

Rodeo Events

Professional rodeos feature six different events — three "timed" events and three "roughstock" events. In the timed events — calf roping, steer wrestling, and barrel racing — cowboys compete to see who can complete a task in the shortest amount of time. The roughstock events — bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, and bull riding — are considered the most dangerous and physically demanding rodeo sports. In each of these events, a cowboy must remain on the back of a bucking animal for eight seconds. Competitors receive up to 100 points for a successful ride, based half on the difficulty of the animal's bucking action and half on the rider's technique.

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In bareback riding, a cowboy must ride a horse bareback, with one hand grasping a small handle attached to a leather rigging around the horse's middle. Riders are judged on their spurring technique, whether their toes remain pointed outward, and how far they lean back during the ride. To succeed in bareback riding, a cowboy must show both flamboyance and control. "The guy who wins the bareback is the guy who has the most gas," Murray explained. "He's got to expose himself the most."

Saddle bronc riding is a classic rodeo event based on the traditional ranch work of breaking horses to saddle. Although competitors ride a horse with a saddle while holding a thick rein in one hand, it is considered a difficult event for riders to master due to its technical requirements. "It's a technique event. A perfection event," Murray stated. "You're trying to make the rankest [most difficult] horse look easy."

Bull riding is the most dangerous rodeo sport. Cowboys ride a 2,000-pound bull—complete with horns—while holding a rope in one hand. The rope is wrapped around the bull's middle and has a bell attached to it to irritate the bull. To succeed in bull riding, cowboys need balance, coordination, quick reflexes, flexibility, and nerve. They are judged on their ability to withstand the strength, power, and speed of a bull's jumps and spins. "The whole thing is not getting bucked off. You've got to be able to think ahead and react," Murray said. "If you make one small shift the wrong way on a good bull, you do not stay on. And it's when you're down that you become most vulnerable, because that's when a bull will try to trample you or hook you with his horns."

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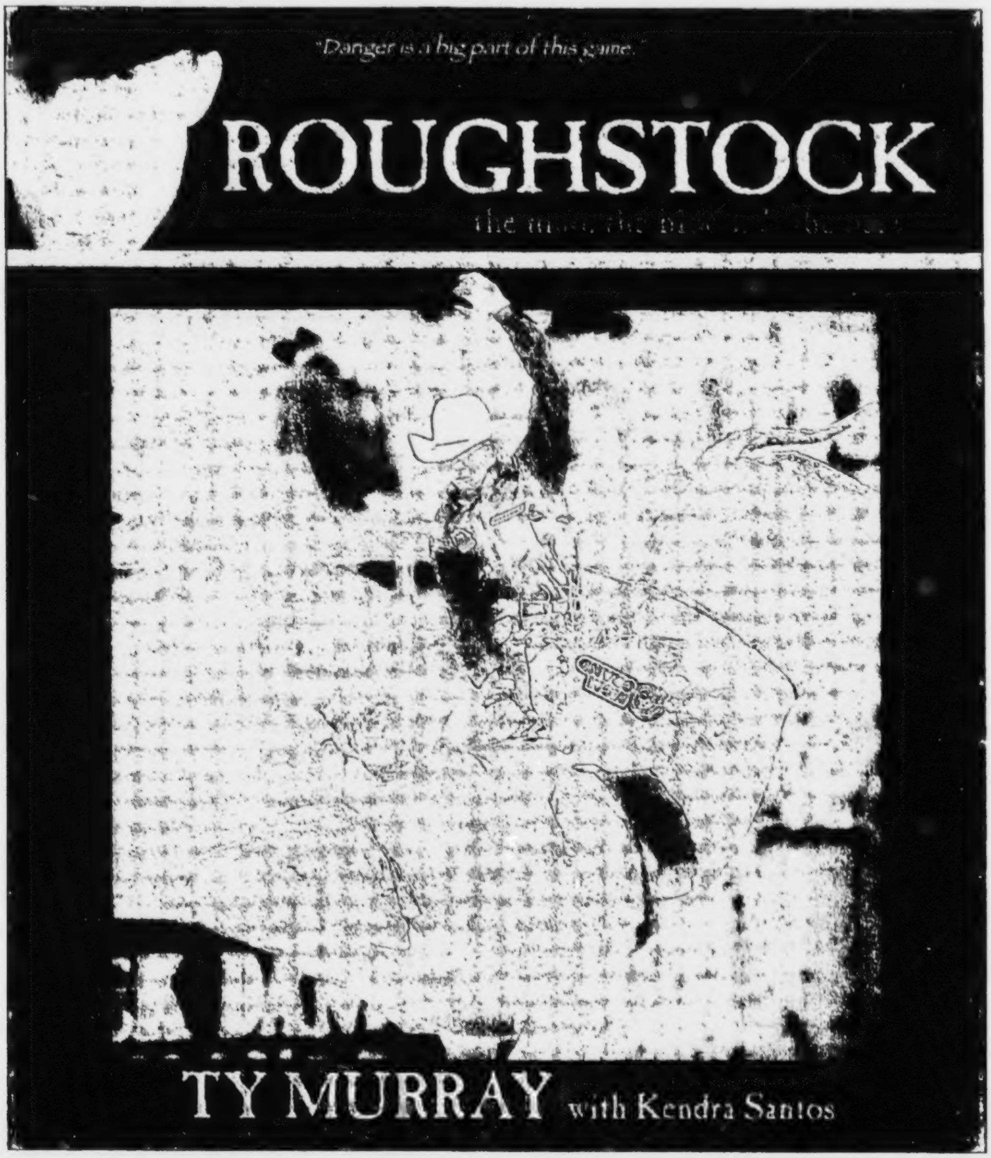
Most professional cowboys specialize in a single event. Those who compete in more than one event—and thus qualify for consideration as the world all-around champion—tend to concentrate on the timed events,


"Danger is a big part of this game."
ROUGHSTOCK
TY MURRAY with Kendra Santos

which are less dangerous and put less stress on the body. But due to his love of rodeo and his determination to become the world all-around champion, Murray consistently competed in all three roughstock events. "I think that a real cowboy ought to be able to do everything," he stated.

Winning His First World All-Around Championship

During his first year as a professional cowboy in 1988, Murray earned $45,977 in prize money and was named PRCA rookie of the year in both bareback riding and overall. However, he failed to earn enough prize money in any one event to qualify for the NFR. In 1989—the same year he won the all-around title at the National College Finals Rodeo—Murray also qualified for the NFR in both bareback riding and saddle bronc riding. He rode some of the world's best bucking horses during the competition. He became the second cowboy ever to stay on a bronc named Mr. T for eight seconds, for example, and the first right-handed rider ever to stay on another bronc called Wolfman. By the end of the NFR, Murray had performed well enough in both of his events to win the coveted PRCA world all-around championship. He thus became the youngest cowboy ever to win the all-around title and the first man ever to hold the collegiate and professional all-around titles at the same time.

Murray was thrilled when he achieved his dream of becoming a world all-around champion cowboy at the age of 20. "When I won my first world all-around championship in 1989, a lot of people asked me if I was surprised by how well I was doing at such a young age and so early in my career," he recalled. "I reminded them that I didn't just wake up one day with a gold buckle on my belt. There was nothing sudden about it. World championships don't just sneak up on you. I was only 20, but I'd been working hard at that first championship for 18 years."

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Although Murray had achieved one of his goals, he still had a long way to go before he beat Mahan's record of six all-around titles. He had another outstanding season in 1990, when he became the first cowboy ever to top $200,000 in prize money during a single year. He qualified for the NFR in all three roughstock events, becoming the first cowboy to do so since Mahan in 1973. "It ain't easy to get to this point in all three, I can tell you that," Murray acknowledged. "There are a lot of times after I've been slammed and could barely get out of bed, I'd think, Is this worth it? The bottom line is, you've got to love it. And I love all three events. I've worked hard at 'em my whole life. I never wanted to be a bull rider or a bronc rider. I wanted to be a cowboy."

At the 1990 NFR, Murray was close to wrapping up his second consecutive all-around title when he had an accident in the saddle bronc event. A 1,200-pound horse toppled over sideways on top of him, pinning his leg. Although his injuries were limited to a severely bruised and swollen knee, he was forced to withdraw from the rest of the competition. Luckily, his competitors were not able to surpass his lead in prize money and he was able to claim a second world all-around championship from the sidelines.

Continued Success

Murray recovered from his injury and continued to dominate at PRCA rodeos. He qualified for the NFR in all three roughstock events each year between 1991 and 1994, and he went on to claim the world all-around championship four more times to tie Mahan's record. In 1992, at the age of 23, he became the youngest cowboy ever to pass the million-dollar mark in career rodeo earnings. Only six other cowboys had earned more than a million dollars at that time, and they had taken more than twice as long to do so.

In 1993, Murray set a single-season PRCA earnings record of $297,896. He also claimed his first world championship in the bull-riding event at the NFR that year. At one point in the NFR, Murray was in fourth place in the bull-riding standings, which he knew meant that he had the bull-riding title for the year wrapped up. But one of the bulls he drew during the competition had not bucked, so he was given the option of a "reride." Murray decided to go for it, even though accepting the reride could have lowered his position in the bull-riding standings and cost him the title. Instead, the gutsy decision helped him claim his fifth world all-around championship.

"Everybody thought I was crazy," he remembered. "I rode that bull, moved up in the round, and ended up winning the world title by $95. That wasn't a gutsy decision for me at all. I will never lie down and settle for fourth. If I'd have bucked off that bull I'd have been the runner-up. But taking that reride and getting bucked off would have felt 10 times better than not taking it and losing by $95. You will never be great if you have a chance to make your own outcome and do nothing about it."

Sidelined by Injuries

Murray cruised to his sixth consecutive PRCA world all-around championship in 1994, tying his mentor Larry Mahan's record. He seemed to be heading for an unprecedented seventh consecutive all-around title in 1995 when he ran into a string of bad luck. "Like they always say in rodeo, it isn't if you'll get hurt, but when and how bad," he noted. During the 1995 season, Murray tore ligaments in his right knee and had to undergo surgery to repair it. While he was recovering, he decided to have his other knee operated on as well in order to fix lingering problems from a series of injuries. The rehabilitation process kept him out of action for almost a year and caused him to miss the 1995 NFR.

Murray took his injuries in stride. "Everyone expected me to be devastated and heartbroken by the knee injuries," he recalled. "Of course it would have been nice to win the record seventh world all-around championship that year and make it seven in a row, but I didn't have a choice in the matter." During his time off from the rodeo circuit, he spent time with family and friends, and he made appearances and shot advertisements for his sponsors. He also acted as a commentator at the NFR and wrote a behind-the-scenes newspaper column about the event.

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Murray returned to action in March 1996. Two months later, however, he tore ligaments in the shoulder of his free arm and had to undergo surgery again. This injury kept him on the sidelines for another six months and caused him to miss another NFR. In January 1997, Murray made yet another comeback, but this one also proved to be short-lived. The following month he dislocated his other shoulder, which put him out of action for six more months. "By that time, a lot of people were questioning my decision to come back at all," he admitted. "They told me that I had nothing to prove and that maybe God was trying to tell me to hang it up. It probably seemed to them like I'd been around forever, but I was only 27 years old. And I was still a cowboy. You don't dedicate your life to something then walk away in your prime."

Murray finally overcame his series of injuries and made a successful return to the rodeo circuit in October 1997, after two years on the sidelines. "It's good to be back," he stated. "I needed a break from rodeo when I had my surgeries, and by the time I'd finished my break, I'd got to where I was craving it again." Murray concentrated on bull-riding events during his

first few rodeos. "The first bull, I felt real rusty," he remembered. "On the second bull, I felt good. And on the third, I got 90 points."

Winning a Record Seventh World All-Around Championship

In 1998, Murray went back to competing in all three roughstock events in hopes of finally claiming his seventh world all-around championship. He earned $264, 672 in prize money over the course of the season and sat in first place overall at the start of the NFR. But Murray had a poor showing at the year's final rodeo, getting bucked off four of his nine bulls and four of his nine saddle broncs during the event. Although his disappointing performance made for a close finish, Murray held on to win the all-around title. That gave him his seventh world all-around championship, passing the record of six held by legendary cowboys Larry Mahan and Tom Ferguson. He also claimed his second career world bull-riding championship.

> *"It's hard to explain in words, but when the whistle blew on my last bull it was like time stopped," Murray recalled of the day he achieved his lifelong dream of winning a record seven all-around championship titles. "I've never had a more clear moment in my life. The whole world stood still in my mind and everything I'd been through since I was a little boy — the fun, the triumphs, the tears, and the tragedies — flashed before my eyes. I've never felt happier than at that split second."*

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After claiming his record-breaking seventh all-around title, Murray decided to shift his focus from the PRCA rodeo circuit to the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) tour. He and a group of other top bull riders formed the PBR in 1992 in order to make the sport of bull riding more professional. PBR events bring the best bulls and the best riders together for around 30 events each year. Murray wanted PBR events to offer top-notch competition, higher prize money, and better-quality animals. "The 'Everybody Plays' approach is great for Little League, but this is the Majors," he explained. "The best stock [horses and bulls] should not be wasted on someone who rodeos for a hobby and has no chance. The guys who ride the best should get paid the most, and the fans who buy tickets should get the professional show they pay for. That seems so fair and obvious, but it's often not the case because of situations when the guys who ride for a living draw the dinks [animals that perform poorly] and the part-timers draw the rank ones they can't possibly ride."

Murray shattered the PBR earnings record with $395,724 in prize money for the 1999 season. He won the PBR Finals, but finished second to Cody Hart for the PBR world championship. In 2000, Murray rode 41 of 65 bulls he attempted and won $151,474 in prize money. He was runner-up for the PBR world championship once again, however, this time to Chris Shivers. He was also inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame that year. In 2001, Murray missed two months of the season with another shoulder injury but still earned $255,858 in prize money for the year. Early in the 2002 season, he became only the third cowboy to pass the million-dollar mark in career PBR earnings. "The money in the PBR is great, and it just keeps getting better," he stated. "The money's going into the right pockets, too. With the show we're putting on and the chances we take, this sport's going in the right direction and the cowboys will have something to show for their careers when they get done."

"King of the Cowboys"

Murray is widely considered to be the greatest all-around rodeo cowboy of all time. As the only man ever to win seven PRCA world all-around championships, he has earned the nickname "King of the Cowboys." "Some people are really high on talent and some work harder than everyone else," said his friend and fellow cowboy Cody Lambert. "Every once in a while, someone comes along with both; someone who's stronger, and loves and respects his job more than anybody else. Take that times three events, and you've got Ty Murray."

Murray is also credited with helping to turn rodeo into a popular mainstream success, watched by millions of television viewers. "Ty was a great asset to the sport of rodeo," said Larry Mahan. "Rodeo needed someone like him to come along, just like the NBA needed Larry Bird and Magic Johnson to come along. Ty was in a class by himself at the time, and he still is." Murray's success has brought him several high-profile endorsement contracts, including one with Wrangler jeans. He is also the subject of a rodeo video game. For his part, Murray has always thought that rodeo had universal appeal. "This is part of America's heritage," he explained. "This is John Wayne and all that stuff. Everybody at some point has wanted to ride a horse and play cowboy. I think we've hit a period where this lifestyle has become a lot more appealing."

Part of rodeo's appeal is the danger involved, particularly in the roughstock events. "If there were no danger factor involved, a lot of cowboys and fans wouldn't love it like they do because it wouldn't be the sport it is," Murray stated. "Sponsors are attracted to dangerous sports for the same reason. You don't see many major corporations chasing chess players. It all goes back to the days of gladiators and knights in shining armor. People are drawn to danger. They're intrigued by it."

The dangerous nature of rodeo has seriously injured or killed several people who were close to Murray over the years. Perhaps the best-known example was Lane Frost, a personable cowboy who was killed by a bull in 1989, at the age of 25, and later became the subject of the movie *Eight Seconds*. Murray was on horseback in the ring as a safety worker when his friend Frost died. "Most people don't realize just how strong bulls are. I've seen them jump six-foot fences," Murray noted. "I've seen a bull throw a 200-pound clown barrel, with a 200-pound clown in it, over a six-foot fence with his head—just with his neck strength. . . . A 150-pound man is like an ant to a bull, and bulls are mean by nature."

Murray believes that cowboys are not compensated enough for the risks they take, especially compared to other professional athletes. But he has never regretted his career decision. "It's hard for me to gripe. How rich you are is not always measured by how much money you've got. And I believe that, I really believe that. I've seen too many people who get up every day and hate to go to work. I make a real good living at it, and I get to do what I love to do, and that's worth all the money in the world," he stated. "I wouldn't trade the fun I've had, the friends I've made, and the jokes I've heard in rodeo for anything. I feel real fortunate that I've been able to make a living doing what I dreamed of since I was a little kid."

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Deciding to Retire

In May 2002, Murray announced that he was retiring after an unparalleled 14-year career in professional rodeo. "I've been thinking about it all year, because I don't have the focus, drive, and intensity that I've had in the past," he explained. "You have to have a fire in you for this sport, because it's way too dangerous to do as an afterthought, and I've never been interested in competing at any capacity less than that of a serious contender. I've always promised myself that I'd retire before I started to backslide, and I'm keeping that promise." According to Murray, he was confident that he was making the right decision. "I will never be a guy who makes a comeback, I can tell you that right now," he said. "I wanted to be positive in my heart that this is what I wanted to do. I've been thinking about this half a season. I feel sure about it."

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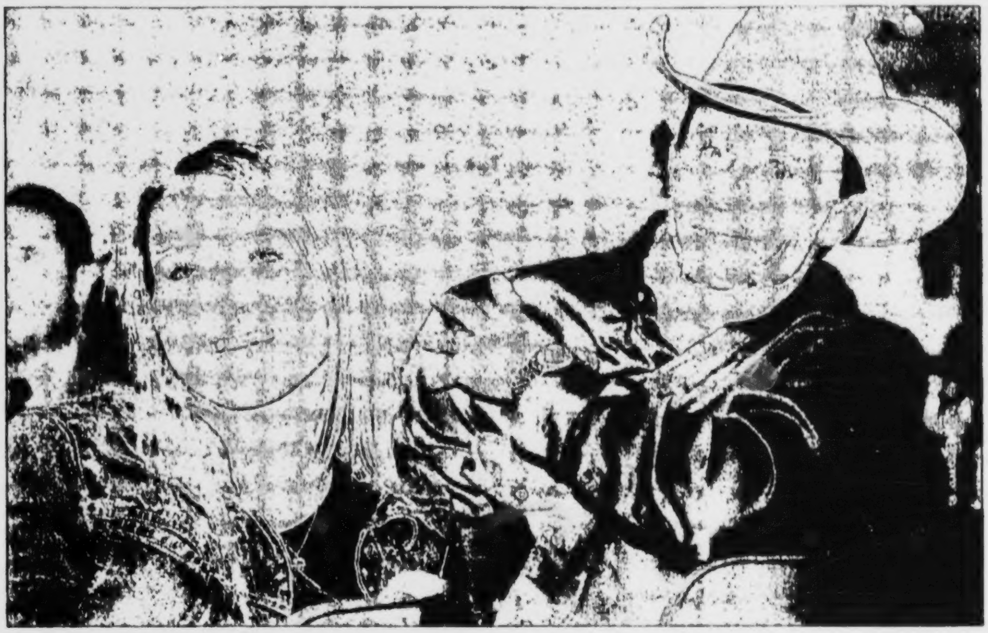
Murray retired as professional rodeo's most successful and most recognizable cowboy. He won more all-around titles and more money than any other cowboy—an estimated $3 million. He's already been inducted into the Hall of Fame. He's reached the pinnacle of success as a professional cowboy. "I've accomplished everything that I've set out to do. I've always wanted to go out when I'm competing on a world class level. Bull riding is a sport where you have to take care of business. You have to have your heart and soul into it 100 percent. I just don't have the desire to compete like I used to."

For the future, Murray plans to continue his involvement with both the PBR and the PRCA. He will also do color commentary work for TV broadcasts of NFR competitions and will continue to endorse products for rodeo sponsors. But he also plans to spend more time enjoying life on his ranch. "I'll miss the riding, but look forward to enjoying what I've worked for. I'll have more time for some of the other things I really love, like my family, riding colts, and taking care of cows at my ranch, which has been a lifelong dream of mine. I also moved my parents here in June and it'll be great to spend more time fishing and hanging out at my cabin with them."



Murray with singer Jewel, September 1999.

"I've always been a cowboy; I'm a fourth-generation cowboy," Murray said. "I love breaking colts, I love punching cows, and I love being here on the ranch. I know I'll always be involved in it all my life."

HOME AND FAMILY

Murray lives on a 1,800-acre ranch in Stephenville, Texas, that he bought with his rodeo winnings. He runs more than 200 head of cattle on his ranch, which is located along the Bosque River. Stephenville is known as the Cowboy Capital because it is home to a dozen top rodeo cowboys, who are attracted to the area for its rural setting and its proximity to the Dallas/Fort Worth airport. "I cherish the ranch I bought with rodeo earnings because it's taken everything I've had since I was two years old to get it," he noted. "I have 1,861 acres of beautiful country, full of wildlife, with two lakes on it, and I appreciate it every day because I worked so hard for it."

Murray remains very close to his family and often expresses his appreciation for his parents. "My parents have had such a huge impact on my life," he stated. "I'm so thankful for their support and sacrifice over the years. My mom and dad have always given me their unconditional love."

Although Murray remains single, he has been romantically linked to several high-profile young women. For many years he dated Julie Adair, a former all-around champion of women's rodeo turned movie stuntwoman. He started dating the well-known singer and actress Jewel in 1999, and they have been together ever since. Murray even helped write a song for his girlfriend's 2001 album, *This Way*.

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

In his free time, Murray says, "I enjoy fishing and spending time on my ranch in Stephenville. Being in the outdoors has always been something that I've enjoyed." Murray has been known to buy famous bucking horses when they get too old to perform. He brings the horses to his ranch, where they can live out their final years in peace. "They had no place to go after they were retired," he explained. "I brought those horses here so that they would have a nice place to live before they died. Those horses gave me some great rides. I'll never forget what it felt like to be on them. It's a feeling that's impossible to describe."

> *"I've always been a cowboy; I'm a fourth-generation cowboy. I love breaking colts, I love punching cows, and I love being here on the ranch. I know I'll always be involved in it all my life."*

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PRCA Resistol Bareback Rookie of the Year: 1988
PRCA World All-Around Championship: 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1998
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ADDRESS

Ty Murray Inc.
15293 FM 1914
Stephenville, TX 76401

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

http://www.tymurray.com
http://www.pbrnow.com
http://www.prorodeo.com

Patrick Roy 1965-

Canadian Professional Hockey Player with the Colorado Avalanche
All-Time Leader in NHL Victories for a Goalie
Three-Time Winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy as Most Valuable Player

BIRTH

Patrick Roy (pronounced *wah*) was born on October 5, 1965, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. His parents are Michel Roy, a high-ranking official in Quebec's provincial government, and

Barbara Miller Roy, a real estate agent and swimming coach. He has a younger brother, Stephane, and a younger sister, Alexandra.

Since Roy grew up in Quebec, a province of Canada in which French rather than English is the primary language, he learned to speak the French language first. In fact, he did not become fluent in English until his early adulthood, when he began spending time around English-speaking hockey players.

YOUTH

Roy spent his childhood in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, a wealthy suburb of Quebec City. He was raised by athletic parents who greatly enjoyed sports. His father, a former high school baseball star who had been scouted by the Brooklyn Dodgers, played tennis and other sports on a regular basis. His mother, meanwhile, had once been a nationally ranked synchronized swimmer. She stayed involved in swimming as a coach after having children. "[Since I was] a former competitive swimmer and coach of the Quebec City swim team, Patrick spent his first year sleeping or sitting in his carriage along the pool side," recalled his mother.

> *"After school we would always play hockey," said his brother Stephane. "Any spare time we had, we'd play hockey. Patrick was a bad loser. He was a fierce competitor. It was good that we were close brothers. More than anything we were best buddies."*

Even as a youngster, Roy had the ideal temperament for sports. "He sort of grew up competitive and was always able to cope with pressure," recalled his father. "He started to play organized hockey when he was six years old. When he was six, they would take turns as goalies because they were so young. They would give every player a chance to be the goalie. I guess he liked his experience as a goalie because the following year he told us he wanted to be a goalie; that was what he wanted to do in life. He liked the pads. That was one of the things that attracted him to the position."

During his early youth, Roy competed in tennis and swimming leagues as well as in organized hockey. "He was swimming at an age-group national level and definitely showed potential," remembered his mother. But one day, Roy made it clear that he wanted to devote most of his time to hockey. "When he was nine years old, he confronted me and said, 'I will never be a swimmer, so forget it. I want to concentrate on hockey. It is my priority,'" said Barbara Roy. "From that day on, his father and I gave him our full support and accepted his decision."

As Roy grew older, it sometimes seemed as if he wanted to spend every hour of the day playing hockey. "After school we would always play hockey," said his brother Stephane. "Any spare time we had, we'd play hockey. Patrick was a bad loser. He was a fierce competitor. It was good that we were close brothers. More than anything we were best buddies."

The Roy boys even played hockey in the house. "For hockey goalie pads, we tied pillows around our legs with belts," remembered Roy. "We played upstairs with a tennis ball. There was a door at one end of the hallway. That was the goal. We'd shoot balls to try and score on one another. It was fun. Believe it or not, my parents never complained."

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Roy's passion for the game of hockey even extended to bedtime. Every night, he slept with a goalie stick given to him by Daniel Bouchard, a goalie who played for the Atlanta Flames. With the stick cradled in his arms, Roy slept peacefully, undoubtedly dreaming that he would too one day be a star goalie in the National Hockey League (NHL).

EDUCATION

Roy was a good student who was particularly adept at mathematics. But by his late teens he was struggling to juggle his responsibilities at school with his commitment to hockey. At this point in his life, he was regarded as a promising young goalie. In 1981, for instance, he lost only 3 out of 40 games as the starting goalie for the Sainte-Foy Gouverneurs, an amateur youth team. One year later, Roy became the starting goalie for the Granby Bisons of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Granby was located near Sainte-Foy, so he was able to keep attending school. But as the months passed by, the dual demands of school and hockey became too much for him. "He was just a young boy, but he looked old and worn out," recalled his father.

In 1982 Roy made a dramatic decision. He decided to drop out of school to devote all of his energy to junior hockey. This was a very risky choice, for if he failed in his quest to play professional hockey, he would not have a good education to fall back on. But Roy insisted that it was the right decision for him because it would allow him to focus all of his attention on improving his goalie skills.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

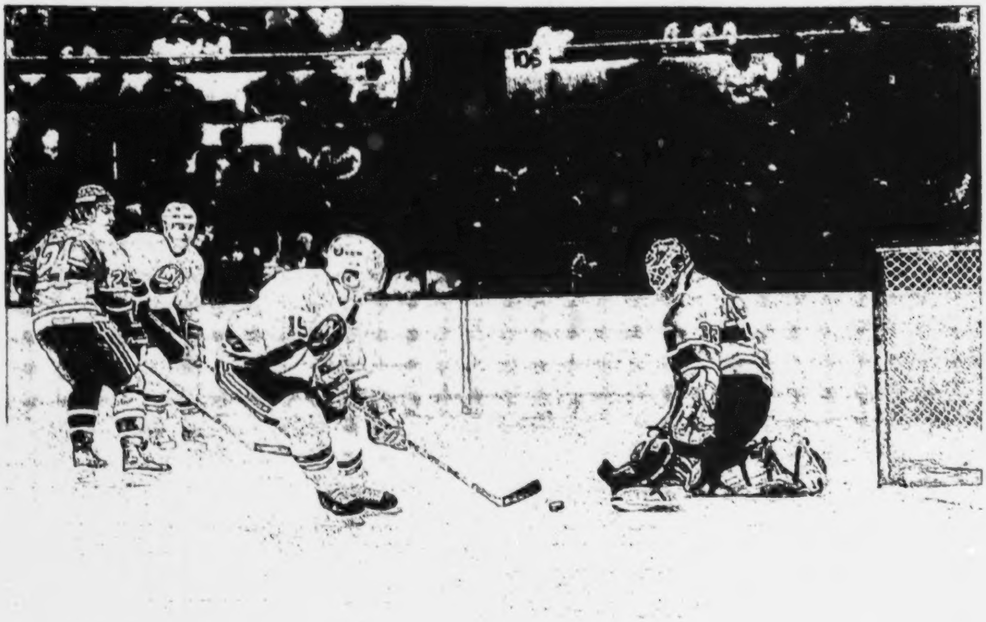
Amateur and Minor League Hockey

Roy's first year with Granby tested his self-confidence. The Bisons did not have many talented players, so the other teams in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) were able to pepper him with flurries of hard-driven shots in every game. "I saw 60 to 70 shots a night," he recalled. "It was target practice on me every night." Roy was able to stop many of these shots, but in most games a few inevitably slipped by him and into the net. As a result, he won only 13 games during the 1982-83 season, and he posted a high goals-against-average (GAA) of 6.26 (this means that during the course of the season, opposing teams scored an average of 6.26 goals against Roy per contest).

The following year, Granby improved its team and Roy was able to compile a record of 29-29-1 (29 victories, 29 losses, and one tie). But during the 1984-85 campaign, he recorded only 16 wins in 44 games. "It was tough playing for [Granby]," he later admitted. "But I got a lot of work and it was a good experience. I learned to deal with the frustrations of losing and now I appreciate more the enjoyment of winning."

Even though Roy played for a losing team, NHL scouts recognized that he was a talented player. In 1984 he became the 51st choice in the annual league draft. He was selected by the Montreal Canadiens, one of the most successful clubs in NHL history. Roy was excited by the Canadiens' decision to draft him, but he knew that he would have to prove himself in the minor leagues if he ever hoped to wear the red, white, and blue uniform of the Canadiens.

After signing Roy to a professional contract, Montreal assigned him to the Sherbrooke Canadiens of the American Hockey League (AHL). Sherbrooke was Montreal's top minor league team, so Roy knew that he needed to make the most of his playing opportunities. When he first arrived at Sherbrooke, he was not even the team's starting goalie. But he prospered under the guidance of goaltending coach Francois Allaire, and by the time the AHL playoffs began, he had assumed the starting role. He then starred



Roy blocks a shot while playing with the Montreal Canadiens, December 1987.

in the playoffs, leading Sherbrooke to the Calder Cup Championship with a 10-3 record and a solid 2.89 GAA. At season's end, Montreal Head Coach Jean Perron admitted that Roy's performance had been impressive. "He's probably the main reason they won the championship. They weren't the best team during the season, but he kept making save after save in the playoffs. He was always in control. After watching him in Sherbrooke, I knew he could play for the Canadiens."

NHL — Montreal Canadiens

After Roy led Sherbrooke to the Calder Cup, Montreal promoted him to their NHL team. He only played in one game in 1985 — a 6-4 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on February 23 — but he was able to practice and travel with the team. This experience gave him an opportunity to familiarize himself with the speed and skill of NHL players and gave him a taste of the glamor and big crowds that swirled around major league hockey.

The following season Roy joined the big leagues for good. As the 1985-86 campaign progressed, he emerged as Montreal's number one goalie. He made some glaring mistakes and allowed some easy goals during his rookie year. But veteran Montreal players still sensed that Roy might be a special goalie. "He was gangly, built like a toothpick," recalled Hall of Fame defenseman Larry Robinson. "But the thing I remember most was how much he hated to get scored on in practice. He would get really mad if anybody scored. You could tell he had confidence, on the verge of being cocky, in himself."

By the end of the regular season, Roy had posted a 23-18-3 mark and been named to the NHL's All-Rookie Team. He had also helped the Canadiens qualify for the playoffs. But the team was not expected to make a serious bid for the Stanley Cup (the NHL Championship) because many people thought that young Roy might wilt under the pressure of the playoffs. "I was definitely the question mark on our team when the playoffs started," he admitted.

As the playoffs unfolded, however, Roy silenced all of his doubters. Carried by his brilliant performance in series after series, the Canadiens advanced all the way to the Stanley Cup finals, where they whipped the Calgary Flames in five games. In recognition of his terrific postseason — Roy won 15 out of 20 games and posted a dazzling 1.92 goals-against average — the rookie netminder received the Conn Smythe trophy as the Most Valuable Player of the 1986 playoffs.

In the weeks following Montreal's Stanley Cup triumph, Roy admitted that he was amazed by his success as a rookie. But he reassured fans that he was not satisfied with a single great season.

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"Winning this year does not make a career," he said. "I'm going to come back in training camp and be in good shape and prove myself. Some goaltenders play well in their first year and expect things will be easy in their second year, but they forget how much work you have to do in training camp. It's important to work hard. The most important thing is the desire to practice, the desire to win."

Roy also indicated that he was not going to let his sudden stardom change the way he behaved toward others. "I have my two feet on the ground," he declared. "I know this is all a dream. I understand that. So I lived with my family this summer, and I have the same friends. We still do the same things we've always done: play deck hockey, softball. It's important not to change."

All-Star Goaltender for the Canadiens

At the beginning of the 1986-87 season, skeptics wondered if Roy might fade after his magical rookie season. But instead, he emerged as one of the NHL's most talented and reliable goaltenders. For each of the next six seasons, Roy posted a GAA under 3, and in three of those seasons he racked up more than 30 victories. During this period of time, he became known throughout the league for his unique goaltending technique. His method of goaltending, which came to be known as the "butterfly" technique, requires the goaltender to kneel close to the ice with his leg and arm pads fanned out. "If a guy has to make a shot under pressure, he'll usually fire it as hard as he can," said Roy. "Most of the time, the puck goes low. When I'm in the butterfly position, it bounces off my pads or skates. That's why the butterfly is important to my game."

From the 1986-87 season through the 1991-92 campaign, Roy's mastery of the "butterfly" enabled him to capture an armful of prestigious goaltending awards. He earned two Trico Goaltending Awards (awarded to the goalie with the best save percentage) and three Vezina Trophies (awarded to the best goaltender in the NHL). He and fellow Canadiens netminder Bryan Hayward also earned four Jennings Trophies, given to the team with the best GAA. In addition, Roy became a regular participant in the NHL All-Star Game.

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But despite Roy's steady performance in goal, Montreal struggled in the postseason. In 1989 the team managed to claw its way to the Stanley Cup finals, where it lost to Calgary. But in the next three seasons, the team failed to advance beyond the first round of the playoffs. Most people felt that Montreal simply did not have enough scoring power to contend for another Stanley Cup title. But some fans blamed the title drought on Roy and called on the team to trade their star goalie.

Leading a Championship Drive

In 1992 Jacques Demers took over as head coach of the Canadiens. He immediately declared that he had no intention of trading Roy. Demers insisted that if the team improved its offense, Roy could guide them to another Stanley Cup championship. "The one thing as a coach I'll take credit for is I stood with Patrick," Demers later said.

Roy quickly rewarded Demers for his faith in him. Roy posted another 30-win season in 1992-93 and the Canadiens qualified for the playoffs. The team then caught fire in the postseason, winning an NHL-record 10 straight overtime contests. One mistake by Roy in any of these games would have brought defeat, but he was flawless in game after game when it was on the line. "I'm just seeing the puck really well," he said. "My concentration is easy. It's tiring playing all these overtimes, but I don't think about the overtime record. It's fun."

When Montreal reached the Stanley Cup finals, they were greeted by the Los Angeles Kings. Led by superstar Wayne Gretzky, the Kings were heavily favored to defeat the Canadiens. But Montreal rode Roy's tough play to a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. In Game 4, Montreal lost a one-goal lead late in the second period when Roy allowed a weak goal. As the two teams went into the locker room to prepare for the final period, the Kings players were happy because they believed that the goal had shifted the momentum toward their side. But over in the Montreal locker room, Roy was so upset about the weak goal that he vowed to his teammates that he would not give up another goal in the game. True to his word, he went out in the third period and shut the Kings down. At one point he even gave a cocky wink to a Kings player after stopping a tough shot, a gesture of confidence that had hockey fans all around North America talking the next day.

Roy's performance enabled Montreal to take a commanding 3-1 lead in the series and added to his growing reputation as one of the league's all-time clutch goalies. "I've read about Babe Ruth pointing to the stands and calling his shot and I've heard about Knute Rockne asking his Notre Dame players to win one for the Gipper, but this was the most dramatic job of leadership I've ever seen," Canadiens team captain Guy Carbonneau said after the game.

Before Game Five Roy told teammates that they were going to clinch the Stanley Cup that night. Sure enough, the Canadiens cruised to a 4-1 victory. "When Patrick Roy makes a promise, he keeps it," said one of his team-

Roy makes a save against the New Jersey Devils during the Stanley Cup finals, 2001.

mates afterward. "He isn't an outspoken guy, but he said he was going to shut the door tonight, and he did." Roy's great playoff performance earned him his second Conn Smythe Trophy. "On a Stanley Cup winner, you have to have great goaltending," said Demers. "Patrick Roy has been outstanding. When he got that trophy, it was deserved."

Mounting Frustration in Montreal

In the summer of 1993 Roy signed a new four-year contract with Montreal that paid him more than $16 million. "He's the best goaltender in hockey," said team president Ronald Corey. "Fans have made him the most popular player on the team. He's got the respect of everybody on the team." Roy was delighted with the new agreement, too, for it seemed to guarantee that he would spend the rest of his career in Montreal.

In 1993-94 Roy went 35-17-11 and led the NHL with seven shutouts. The Canadiens failed to defend their Stanley Cup title, however, in part because Roy was struck with appendicitis midway through Montreal's playoff series against the Boston Bruins. He missed Game 3, then took medication so that he could delay surgery to remove his appendix. He checked out of the hospital on the morning of Game Four and led his team to a stirring 5-2 victory that night. But Boston ultimately won the series in seven games despite Roy's heroic effort.

The following season was marred by a strike called by NHL players to protest financial disagreements with the league's owners. After the two sides finally reached an agreement, the Canadiens struggled. In fact, Roy posted his first-ever losing record (17-20-6) and the Canadiens missed the playoffs for the first time in 25 years. "People demand the Stanley Cup every year, but it's not realistic," he said at the end of the year. "I could never believe that the Canadiens would one day miss the playoffs. But we were so bad on the road that you can't expect to make the playoffs. Maybe we're not as good as people think. It's the first time since juniors that I've been through this. It's a new experience and I hope I'll gain from it."

Eager to restore Montreal to its former glory, the team's management shook up the roster and the coaching staff. But the moves left Roy with few of his old teammates. In addition, the star goalie did not get along with new head coach Mario Tremblay, a former Montreal star he had played with during the goalie's rookie season.

The changes failed to make Montreal a better team, and as the 1995-96 season progressed Roy and other players became frustrated with Tremblay's coaching style. Roy's difficulties with his head coach finally boiled over in a December 1995 game against the Detroit Red Wings. Roy and the rest of the team played poorly and Detroit surged out to a 5-0 first period lead. Usually, a starting goalie who gets ripped so badly early in a game is replaced in order to spare him embarrassment. But Tremblay kept Roy in the game until it was 9-0. By the time the coach finally replaced him, the star goalie was enraged. He believed that Tremblay had left him in the contest for the sole purpose of humiliating him. When Roy reached the bench, he angrily stormed past Tremblay to the team president's viewing box and loudly declared that he would never play for the Canadiens again. He was suspended from the team the following day when he failed to show up for a team practice and meeting.

Traded to the Colorado Avalanche

On December 6, 1995, Roy and teammate Mike Keane were traded to the Colorado Avalanche for Andrei Kovalenko, Martin Rucinsky, and Jocelyn Thibault. The trade triggered mixed emotions in Roy. He was happy that he had an opportunity to make a fresh start far away from Tremblay. "I guess in Montreal I was carrying too much on my shoulders and at the end, it was getting harder and harder to accept losing," he stated. "My objective has always been to win the Stanley Cup, and Montreal's objective this year was just to make the playoffs. I didn't agree with that." But he was sad that his career with the Canadiens had ended in a swirl of controversy, and he knew that the relocation to Denver would be difficult for his family. His children, for instance, would have to make new friends at the same time that they learned to speak the English language.

After arriving in Colorado, Roy immediately became the team's starting goalie. The Avalanche was a talented team, and many fans and players believed that Roy might be the last piece of the puzzle in creating a championship team. "I think [the trade to get Roy] showed everyone in our locker room that we were serious about winning the Stanley Cup," confirmed Colorado Coach Marc Crawford. "With all the experience we had on this team, you could see something very special was happening with this group."

Roy posted a 22-15-1 record during the regular season in Colorado. Those 22 victories, combined with the 12 games he won with Montreal before the trade, gave him 30-plus wins for the sixth time in his career. In the 1996 playoffs the star-studded Avalanche team cruised to the Stanley Cup championship. Roy posted three shutouts during Colorado's playoff run, including a 63-save, 1-0 triple overtime thriller against the Florida Panthers in the final game of the championship. In recognition of his role in bringing a championship to Colorado, Avalanche fans starting referring to him as "Saint Patrick," the king of the goalies.

The following year, Colorado marched to the best record in the NHL. Roy earned a league-high 38 victories and tied a career high with 7 shutouts. On April 24, 1997, he became the winningest goalie in NHL playoff history with his 89th postseason win, a 7-0 shutout of the Chicago Blackhawks.

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But the season ended in disappointing fashion, as the Red Wings ended Colorado's bid to repeat as NHL champions. "I'm not a happy guy right now," Roy said after losing to Detroit. "In sports, the ugliest part is when the season ends and you haven't fulfilled your goals."

Over the next few seasons Roy maintained his usual level of excellence. In 1998-99 he became the first goalie in NHL history to win 30 games in nine different seasons. That same year, he was the starting goalie for Canada in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Roy won four games—including one shutout—and recorded an excellent GAA of 1.46 in six games. But Canada lost the last two games of the tournament to finish in fourth place. In 1999-2000 Roy won 32 games (his tenth 30-win season) and posted a new personal best of 2.28 GAA as Colorado advanced all the way to the conference finals before falling.

"Earlier in my career I was like a home run hitter, very aggressive, didn't care if I struck out once in a while. I got by on raw talent and nerve. Now I think I've seen nearly every situation there is in the game. It's almost like I can see plays developing in front of me like I was sitting in a theater guessing what was going to happen next in a movie."

Breaking the NHL Record for All-Time Victories

The 2000-2001 campaign was a memorable one for Roy and his Colorado teammates in a number of respects. Boosted by his 40 victories and excellent 2.21 GAA, Colorado raced to the best regular season in the league. One of the team's victories came on October 17, 2000, against the Washington Capitals. With this 4-3 overtime win, Roy passed Terry Sawchuk as the NHL's all-time leader in games won by a goaltender. When the game ended, he was carried off the ice by his teammates. "He's unbelievable and it couldn't happen to a better person," said Colorado forward Peter Forsberg. "Everybody is real happy for him."

For his part, Roy recognized that his recordbreaking achievement established him as one of hockey's all-time greats. But he said that he never would have broken Sawchuck's mark if he had not changed his style over the years. "Earlier in my career I was like a home run hitter, very aggressive, didn't care if I struck out once in a while," he said. "I got by on raw talent

Roy (right) and teammate Ray Bourque (left) hold up the Stanley Cup after the Avalanche defeated the New Jersey Devils 3-1 in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals, June 2001.

and nerve. Now I think I've seen nearly every situation there is in the game. It's almost like I can see plays developing in front of me like I was sitting in a theater guessing what was going to happen next in a movie." Roy also paid tribute to the former recordholder, adding that he had made a special effort to learn about Sawchuck's life and career over the previous few months. "[Goalies of Sawchuk's era] were playing with no masks, or little masks," he pointed out. "Today, we have outstanding protection. The last thing we want to do is to [diminish] how a player performed in his own time."

To honor Roy's new stature as the all-time wins leader in NHL history, the city of Denver named a street in his honor. Only two days later, though, he was arrested after a domestic dispute with his wife. When investigators learned that Roy had ripped a door off its hinges during the argument, they charged him with criminal mischief. If he had been found guilty of this charge, he could have been deported to Canada. But he and his wife insisted that they had not physically touched each other at any time during the episode, and the charges were eventually dropped. Since then, Roy and his wife have declared that they are very happily married. They also asserted that the incident would have been forgotten in a couple of days if Roy had not been a sports celebrity.

As the 2000-2001 playoffs approached, Roy tried to put the controversy behind him and concentrate on hockey. He struggled in the first round of the playoffs, but the Avalanche still managed to advance to the second round. At that point, he returned to All-Star form. He silenced Avalanche fans who had begun to whisper that the team needed a younger goaltender, blocking almost every puck fired his way. Energized by Roy's spectacular play, the Avalanche marched into the Stanley Cup Finals once again. "He's playing some of the best hockey in his career, which is scary considering he might already have proved himself the best goalie in history," said Colorado teammate Shjon Podein. "Anytime you challenge Patrick's talent and desire, he seems to raise the bar."

Colorado then defeated the New Jersey Devils in a tough seven-game series to win the Stanley Cup. After the series was over, most observers agreed that Roy was the key to the Avalanche victory. "Patrick, game after game, kept coming, kept giving us a chance, kept giving us a reason to believe that we would win that Stanley Cup," said Coach Bob Hartley. "In my mind, he was the only one that could win it." Roy's tough performance in the 2001 playoffs was rewarded when he won the Conn Smythe Trophy for a third time. He thus became the first player in league history ever to claim playoff MVP honors three times.

Still Going Strong in 2002

In the summer of 2001 Roy signed a two-year, $17-million contract extension with the Avalanche. He knew that few NHL players stayed in the league past their early 30s, but he wanted to keep playing for as long as he could. "The thing is, I still love to play the game," he explained. "And there are some things that I'd like to accomplish. I'd like to win 500 games and play in 1,000 games. Nobody has ever done that. But the main thing that I'll always play the game for is to win the Stanley Cup."

Roy continued his outstanding play in the 2001-2002 season. On December 26, 2001, he reached one of his career goals when he shut out the Dallas Stars 2-0 to become the first goaltender in NHL history to win 500 games. He made 13 saves in the final period to preserve the shutout, including several spectacular stops. "He's the best goalie in the world, the best ever—that's what 500 wins means," teammate Rob Blake said afterward. "It's an honor to play with him." Roy achieved that impressive goal even though the Avalanche sometimes struggled during the season. Injuries had shut down several of the team's top players, and their absence severely curtailed the team's ability to score. Many observers said that Roy's brilliant defense carried the team.

Roy declined to represent Canada in the February 2002 Olympics. His decision disappointed and angered many Canadian players and fans. Some of them believed that he decided not to play when Team Canada failed to name him as one of the first eight players to the team or guarantee him the number one goalie spot. But Roy insisted that he decided not to participate because he needed to rest for the upcoming playoffs. As it turned out, his absence did not hurt the Canadian team. Canada defeated the United States to win the men's gold medal in hockey.

By the end of the season—Roy's 17th season in the NHL—he still ranked as one of the league's top goaltenders. "I think it is one of my best seasons," Roy said. "I've been really consistent all year, and that's what I'm happy about. The reasons? I don't know. I've stuck with what I always have. I work hard all the time. I try to enjoy myself a lot more and not let any losses affect my play. That's helped a lot." His teammate Joe Sakic agreed. "It's definitely the best year I've seen him have with us, and he's had some good ones," Sakic said. "Right from day one, he's been our best player, almost every night."

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> *In the final game of the 2002 division championships, the Red Wings scored repeatedly on Roy. After the fourth goal, at 12 minutes 51 seconds into the first period, Colorado Coach Bob Hartley asked his star goalie if he wanted to come out. "I said 'No, I'm staying in. I want to be part of the team. I wanted to be there also in the bumpy times. I didn't want to let down the guys. I wanted to fight with them as long as I could. But after the sixth one, that was it."*
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A Disappointing Finish

The Avalanche made NHL history when it won its eighth consecutive division title in 2002. But the team struggled during the playoffs, even as their star goalie nurtured their hopes of repeating as Stanley Cup Champions. Colorado defeated the Los Angeles Kings in seven games in the first round, with Roy posting a 4-0 shutout in Game 7. Then the Avs beat the San Jose Sharks in another tough, seven-game series. Once again, Roy came through with a shutout to lift his team to a 1-0 victory in the deciding game.

In the Western Conference Finals, the Avalanche faced the powerful Detroit Red Wings. The Wings, which featured an all-star lineup of future hall-of-

Roy watches as the shot by Steve Duchesne goes into the net during the final and deciding playoff game against the Red Wings for the Western Conference Championship, May 2002.

famers, had posted the best record in the NHL during the regular season. The series was notable for its matchup of outstanding goaltenders, as Roy squared off against Detroit's Dominik Hasek. After losing the first game in Detroit, Colorado came back to defeat the Wings in overtime in Game 2. As the series shifted to Colorado, the Avalanche dropped Game 3 in overtime but came back to win Game 4 and even the series at two games apiece. The Avs pushed Detroit to the brink of elimination by winning Game 5, but the Wings came back to win Game 6 in Colorado to force a pivotal Game 7.

As the series progressed, many observers noted that the Red Wings had outplayed the Avalanche in most of the games. They claimed that Colorado had remained in the series largely on the strength of Roy's excellent performance in goal. Unfortunately, Roy could not carry his team through another Game 7. The Red Wings were on fire from the opening faceoff and scored four goals against Roy in the first period. This marked the first time he had given up four goals in a period in his 240 career playoff appearances. After the fourth goal, at 12 minutes 51 seconds into the first period, Colorado Coach Bob Hartley asked his star goalie if he wanted to come out. "I said 'No, I'm staying in," Roy later said, "I want to be part of the team. I wanted to be there also in the bumpy times. I didn't want to let down the guys. I wanted to fight with them as long as I could. But after the sixth one, that was it." The Wings scored two more goals before the halfway point of the second period, and Hartley removed Roy from the game. "At one point I have a responsibility to protect my goalie," Hartley explained. "Especially after the season that he gave us. I thought he had seen enough tonight."

> *"It bears repeating: Colorado would not have won its NHL-record tying eighth division title, wouldn't have even qualified for the playoffs in the first place, without Roy's awesome campaign: a career-best and league-leading 1.94 goals-against average, nine shutouts, a .925 save percentage. . . . Roy carried an entire team within one win of the Stanley Cup Finals." —Kamon Simpson,* Colorado Springs Gazette

As the best playoff goaltender of all time sat dejectedly on the bench, the Avalanche went on to lose the game 7-0. Although he was unhappy that his team was eliminated from contention for the Stanley Cup, Roy refused to allow the circumstances of the loss to bother him. "It doesn't do much to me," he stated. "Losing 6-0 or 7-0, I mean, it's a loss. And that's the way I see things. Am I more embarrassed? No, I'm not. We tried our best and we brought those guys to seven games." Later, in the dressing room, his teammates rallied around him. "Patty got us here, the MVP of the league in our mind," Joe Sakic said. "It was just a tough night for everybody." And Peter Forsberg echoed that sentiment. "We didn't give him any help," Forsberg said. "We just didn't do the job."

That Game 7 was certainly a surprising and disappointing finish to the season for Roy and the Avalanche. Still, Roy is considered one of the greatest goalies of all time, and many hockey fans give him credit for the team's outstanding season, despite its miserable end. In both the regular season and the playoffs, observers remarked on the offensive line's failure to score. So the team won many games through tight defense, particularly through Roy's spectacular saves. For the 2001-2002 season, he led all goalies in shutouts with nine, led the league with a sparkling 1.94 GAA, and ranked second in the NHL in save percentage. He also won 31 games, marking his seventh consecutive season with over 30 victories. Here, reporter Kamon Simpson of the *Colorado Springs Gazette* emphasizes Roy's importance to the team. "It bears repeating: Colorado would not have won its NHL-record tying eighth division title, wouldn't have even qualified for the playoffs in the first place, without Roy's awesome campaign: a career-best and league-leading 1.94 goals-against average, nine shutouts, a .925 save percentage. . . . Roy carried an entire team within one win of the Stanley Cup Finals."

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Roy and his wife Michele have three children, Jonathan, Frederick, and Jana. The Roy family loves living in the Denver area, but they also maintain close ties with friends and family in Montreal and Quebec City.

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

Roy loves to golf and collect hockey trading cards. One of his most prized possessions is a complete trading card set of the 1912-13 Montreal Canadiens hockey club. He also funds the Patrick Roy Foundation, which provides money to charities for construction projects.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Stanley Cup Championship: 1986, 1993, 1996, 2001
Conn Smythe Trophy (Most Valuable Player of the NHL Playoffs): 1986, 1993, 2001
NHL All-Rookie Team: 1986
William M. Jennings Trophy (Best Team Goals-Against Average): 1987, 1988, 1989 (shared with Bryan Hayward); 1992, 2002 (individual)
Trico Goaltending Award (Best Save Percentage): 1989, 1990
Georges Vezina Trophy (Best Goaltender in the NHL): 1989, 1990, 1992
First Team All-Star: 1989, 1990, 1992
NHL All-Star Game: 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2001
Member, Canadian Olympic Men's Hockey Team: 1998

FURTHER READING

Books

Hughes, Morgan. *Patrick Roy: Champion Goalie,* 1998 (juvenile)
Irvin, Dick. *In the Crease: Goaltenders Look at Life in the NHL,* 1995
Podnieks, Andrew. *Patrick Roy,* 1998 (juvenile)
Who's Who in America, 2002

Periodicals

Boston Globe, Dec. 3, 2000, p.A33
Current Biography Yearbook, 1999
Detroit Free Press, June 1, 2002, p.B9
Denver Post, July 21, 1996, p.B4; Feb. 21, 1999, p.C1; Oct. 18, 2000, p.D12; Dec. 23, 2001, p.C1; Dec. 27, 2001, p.D1; June 2, 2002, p.C1
Denver Rocky Mountain News, Mar. 6, 1997, p.C1; Oct. 4, 2000, p.H2; Oct. 18, 2000, p.C13; Oct. 22, 2000, p.C4; Dec. 29, 2001, p.D9; June 1, 2002, p.D2
Hockey Digest, Jan. 2002, p.28
Los Angeles Times, May 23, 1996, p.C1
Montreal Gazette, Dec. 4, 1995, p.E1; Dec. 7, 1995, p.C1
National Post, Feb. 9, 2002, p.B10
New York Times, June 1, 2002, p.D5
Saturday Night, Mar. 1995, p.44
Sport, Jan. 1997, p.63
Sporting News, June 3, 1996, p.48; May 15, 2000, p.44; Oct. 23, 2000, p.62
Sports Illustrated, May 19, 1986, p.32; Oct. 13, 1986, p.38; June 21, 1993, p.26; Dec. 18, 1995, p.42; June 3, 1996, p.38; Oct. 23, 2000, p.90; May 28, 2001, p.58; Oct. 8, 2001, p.80
Sports Illustrated for Kids, May 1997, p.38
Toronto Sun, Nov. 23, 2001, p.88
USA Today, Oct. 4, 2000, p.E2

ADDRESS

Colorado Avalanche
McNichols Sports Arena
1635 Clay St.
Denver, CO 80204

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

http://www.coloradoavalanche.com
http://www.nhlpa.com
http://www.nhl.com

Tasha Schwikert 1984-

American Gymnast
Led the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team to Fourth Place at the 2000 Olympics
Won the All-Around at the 2001 U.S. National Championships

BIRTH

Tasha Schwikert, who sometimes uses the last name Schwikert-Warren, was born on November 21, 1984, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Both her African-American father, Shannon Warren, and her Caucasian mother, Joy Schwikert, work at the Caesars Palace casino in Las Vegas. They work as dealers in the game of craps, a dice game. Although her parents never married, they have been together for more than 20 years. Tasha had an identical twin sister who died at birth; she has a younger sister, Jordan, who is also an elite gymnast.

When Tasha was born six weeks prematurely, her mother had no idea that she was carrying twins. Joy Schwikert was saddened by the death of one twin, but she chose to concentrate on the baby who survived. "I try not to dwell over anything bad that happens," she explained. "I try to think there's always something good in everything bad that happens. I would love to have both of them, but I'm happy to have one." Tasha weighed only four pounds at birth and struggled to breathe on her own for the first few weeks of her life. But she gradually gained strength and went home from the hospital, and she never experienced any developmental problems due to her prematurity.

YOUTH

Both of Tasha's parents were good athletes who encouraged their daughters to participate in sports. Her mother had been a professional tennis player in the 1970s, rising to fifth in the world rankings in doubles with her own twin sister as a partner. Her father had played basketball at the college level. Schwikert first became involved in gymnastics when she was three years old. Her mother had originally wanted her to play tennis, but she was too small to hold a racket at that age. This early introduction to gymnastics changed her life forever. Although she tried other sports over the years, including soccer and softball, she always felt drawn to gymnastics.

Schwikert began competing in gymnastics at age six and quickly moved up through the levels of amateur competition, as defined by USA Gymnastics. They divide gymnasts into 11 classifications according to skill level. There are numbered divisions from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, and an upper division called elite. The elite division includes junior and senior athletes competing at the national and international levels. Gymnasts who compete in the Olympics are classified as international senior elite. Schwikert started in this system at age six. By the time she was seven, she had already reached level 5. She advanced to level 10 at the age of ten, and made international junior elite by the time she was 13.

Cassie Rice, who was Schwikert's coach at the Gymcats training center in Las Vegas, recognized her student's gift from an early age. "It's very unusual for her to have moved as fast as she has through the levels, especially with the success she's had in each level," she noted. "Now, she's showing so much ability and getting noticed by the USA national training staff. It's a lot for such a young girl."

In 1997, Schwikert placed second in the all-around competition at the American Challenge junior elite nationals. The all-around is one of five different events featured in women's gymnastics competitions. These events are the uneven bars; the vault; the balance beam; the floor exercise; and the all-around, in which competitors' scores for the other four events are combined. Thanks to her impressive performance, Schwikert became one of three female gymnasts in the United States to be selected for special coaching and training as part of the U.S. national team.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

By 1998, Schwickert was competing in the international senior elite classification, the level for Olympic gymnasts. She placed in the top 15 at the U.S. National Championships that year despite competing with a broken toe. The following year, she moved up to ninth in the same event and qualified for the World Team Trials. Schwikert performed well at the World Team Trials but barely missed making the American team for the World Championships. She finished seventh, and only the top six competitors qualified for the World Championships. She still managed to impress many observers, however, because she was the youngest gymnast to compete in the trials.

In 2000, Schwikert placed 11th in the all-around at the U.S. National Championships. Although she was disappointed to move down from her ninth-place finish the previous year, she realized that the competition was particularly tough since the event helped determine which gymnasts would earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team. The three gymnasts with the top combined scores from the U.S. National Championships and the Olympic Trials would automatically make the American team for the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia. The remaining five spots on the team—three more team members and two alternates—would be determined by a selection committee headed by Coach Bela Karolyi.

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> *Cassie Rice, who was Schwikert's coach when she was growing up in Las Vegas, recognized her student's gift from an early age. "It's very unusual for her to have moved as fast as she has through the levels, especially with the success she's had in each level. Now, she's showing so much ability and getting noticed by the USA national training staff. It's a lot for such a young girl."*
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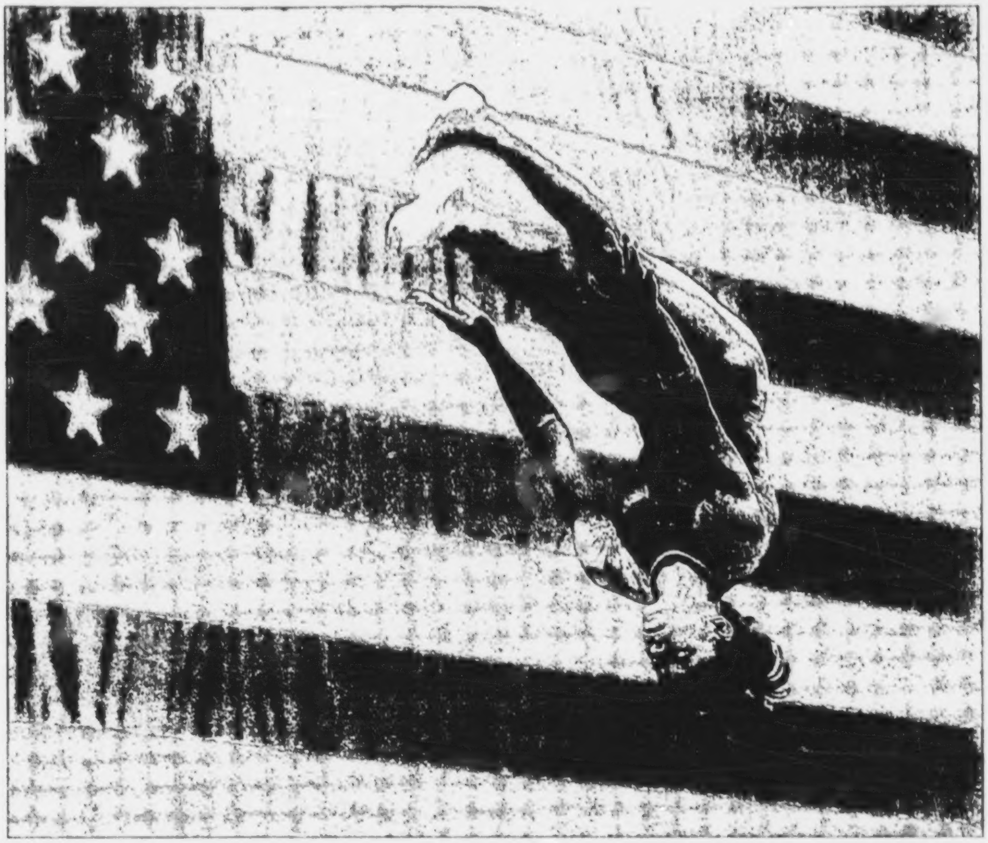

Schwikert competing at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

After finishing ninth in the Olympic Trials, Schwikert was selected as the second alternate for the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team. She was thrilled when Coach Karolyi informed her of his decision in late August. "Watching the 1996 Olympics on TV, I dreamed of competing and being in that spotlight," she stated. "Since I was little, I've wanted to be in the Olympics, but two years ago, I would have never thought I'd come this close and be an alternate. It's just unbelievable, almost unreal." As the second alternate, Schwikert trained with the U.S. team prior to the Games and traveled to Sydney with them. She was ready to compete if any of the other athletes became injured or ill.

Competing in the 2000 Olympic Games

A few days before the Olympic women's gymnastics competition, U.S. team member Morgan White was forced to withdraw due to a nagging foot injury. Karolyi then decided to bypass the first alternate, Alyssa Beckerman, and asked Schwikert to take White's spot on the team. The coach explained that Schwikert was a stronger performer on the vault than Beckerman, and added that she had shown more recent improvement than the first alternate. "The decision was very, very easy because at that point, through the test procedures, Tasha Schwikert did outperform the other alternate," Karolyi stated. "There was no doubt in anyone's mind."

Schwikert was thrilled to learn that she would be competing in the Olympics. "I was totally shocked," she recalled. "I was sad that [Morgan White] was injured, but I was also so excited. It's the kind of thing you dream of." Upon hearing the news, she called home from Australia to tell her mother. She reached Joy Schwikert at her job in the casino, and the proud mother could not contain herself. "I heard a lot of people in the background cheering and clapping," Tasha remembered. At first, it appeared that her family might not be able to afford the trip to Sydney to see her compete in the Olympics. But word of their situation spread quickly among the casino workers at Caesars Palace, who raised $15,000 to help pay for Tasha's mother, father, and sister to make the trip. "These are good-hearted people who don't have any more than we have," said her father, Shannon Warren. "But every one of them wanted me to see my daughter at the Olympics."

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> *Schwikert was selected as the second alternate for the 2000 U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team. "Watching the 1996 Olympics on TV, I dreamed of competing and being in that spotlight. Since I was little, I've wanted to be in the Olympics, but two years ago, I would have never thought I'd come this close and be an alternate. It's just unbelievable, almost unreal."*
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As the Olympic women's gymnastics competition got underway, the American team struggled through the preliminary round and barely qualified for the medal round. Although Schwikert was the youngest and least experienced of the six team members, she performed the most consistently. In addition, her calm nerves and enthusiastic personality helped give the rest of the team a lift. "I told myself, No one expects much, so go after it," she noted. During the medal round, Schwikert scored a 9.675 (out of a perfect 10.0) in the uneven bars, a 9.6 in the floor exercise, and a 9.35 in the balance beam. Her average score of 9.5 for all of her routines was the best on the American squad and helped the U.S. team gain a fourth-place finish in the all-around team competition. "She is the miracle kid," Coach Karolyi stated. "She was probably the most instrumental in tonight's performance."

Thanks to her impressive performance in the Olympics, Schwikert became an instant celebrity. She was featured in a full-page layout in *Sports Illustrated,* for example, and she was interviewed by the *New York Times.* Several articles noted that if she had not been born prematurely, the hero of the U.S. women's gymnastics team at the 2000 Olympics would not even have been eligible to compete in the Games. (An international rule requires all Olympic gymnasts to turn 16 during the calendar year of the competition, and she was supposed to have been born in January 1985.) "Maybe this was meant to be," her mother stated. "Maybe this all was her destiny." When Schwikert returned home to Las Vegas, she was greeted at the airport by over 100 friends, family members, and fans carrying flowers and waving American flags.

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> *Schwikert looked forward to the challenge of becoming a leader of the American gymnastics team. "Last year, I was the underdog, the youngest, the least experienced, now I'm the most experienced and the veteran of the team. So it's going to be a lot different, but it's been fun."*
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Becoming the Leader of the American Team

Upon returning to the United States, Schwikert settled back into her training routine and began preparing for future competitions. Many of her Olympic teammates either retired from the sport or moved on to compete at the college level. As a result, the youngest competitor at the 2000 Games was expected to become the leader of a group of up-and-coming American gymnasts working toward the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. "Now is the time for her to become a strong leader for the next generation of gymnasts," Karolyi noted. Schwikert looked forward to the challenge of becoming a leader. "Last year, I was the underdog, the youngest, the least experienced, now I'm the most experienced and the veteran of the team," she explained. "So it's going to be a lot different, but it's been fun."

Shortly after the Olympics, Schwikert tore her right hamstring in a fall and had to take some time off. But she came back in early 2001 to win the all-around title at the Pan-American Games. "Coming back from the injury was a real struggle, but it was good for me to try hard to get back," she said at the time.

Schwikert performs her balance beam routine during the U.S. Gymnastics Championships, August 2001.

In February 2001, Schwikert became the top-ranked American gymnast by winning the all-around and floor exercise at the U.S. Classic. She maintained her ranking by winning the all-around competition at the U.S. National Championships in July. As the top American gymnast, Schwikert was expected to lead her young teammates to the 2001 World Gymnastics Championships. "I'm ready to lead the team to worlds and hopefully put on a good showing," she stated. "It's the little things—knowing when to walk out, when to warm up, when to do this, when to do that, keeping the others focused and making sure they don't get jittery in their first international competition."

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As the top American gymnast, Schwikert was expected to lead her young teammates to the 2001 World Gymnastics Championships. "I'm ready to lead the team to worlds and hopefully put on a good showing. It's the little things—knowing when to walk out, when to warm up, when to do this, when to do that, keeping the others focused and making sure they don't get jittery in their first international competition."

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At the World Championships, Schwikert had a disappointing performance on the uneven bars but came back with solid performances on the other apparatus. She ended up finishing fifth in the individual all-around, just .736 of a point behind winner Svetlana Khorkina of Russia. "I didn't know what to expect but I never thought that I'd come out fifth in the world," she noted. "I was so excited when I looked at the scoreboard and saw I was less than .10 away from a medal. It's hard but it's still exciting." Even more impressive, Schwikert's leadership helped lift the American team to a bronze medal in the team all-around competition. It was only the fourth time that the United States women's team had ever earned a medal in the World Championships. "No one expected the United States to do anything here," she admitted. "[But] we came, did our job, and got a medal."

Schwikert remains deeply dedicated to her sport and eventually hopes to claim a spot on the U.S. team for the 2004 Olympics. Her longtime coach in Las Vegas, Cassie Rice, praises her top student's discipline and work ethic: "[There are] a lot of kids who show potential when they're young, but when they're older they get interested in boys or other social activities and don't stay focused. Her dedication, drive, and parent support have helped her a lot. She knows that with gymnastics she gets to do different things so she's not worried about her social life. She's very disciplined. A lot of kids with the sniffles or who had too much homework would stay home and you can't argue against that. But Tasha shows up no matter what."

Schwikert admits that gymnastics takes a lot of work, but says she continues competing out of love for the sport. "When I started competing when I was seven, I just liked it a lot. It was just something I stuck with and loved. I like competing in front of people, showing them what I can do," she explained. "Sometimes it's hard, but it's worth it. This is what I want to do. The sport teaches you discipline, a good work ethic, and self-control. I also like the opportunity to travel and compete against others."

Schwikert reacts after performing in the vault competition at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships, August 2001.

EDUCATION

Schwikert attends Centennial High School in Las Vegas. When she goes to public school, her daily schedule includes five hours of classes and six hours of gymnastics training. Due to the long hours she spends training and traveling to gymnastics meets, however, Schwikert is forced to miss between two and three months of school each year. As a result, she has withdrawn from school several times and enrolled in a home-school correspondence course instead. But she prefers to attend public school if possible. "I missed being in a real classroom with real kids instead of being in my room with a book by myself," she explained. Schwikert, who has managed to maintain a 4.0 grade point average despite her demanding schedule, completed the 11th grade in the spring of 2002. Her favorite subjects are math, anatomy, and physiology. She plans to attend college following the 2004 Olympics and hopes to go into a medical field someday.

HOME AND FAMILY

Tasha Schwikert lives with her parents and sister in northwest Las Vegas. "Living in Las Vegas, everyone thinks, 'Oh, the casinos,'" she said. "It's not like I'm hanging out on the casino floor all day. I'm too young. We have a normal house and we go to school and my parents just have a job that's kind of different."

HOBBIES AND OTHER INTERESTS

When she is not training or competing, Schwikert enjoys shopping, swimming, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. As a spokesperson for the Inner-City Games program, she also encourages kids to get involved in sports. "Getting kids involved in sports keeps them healthy and fit and occupies their time," she explained. "I like being a role model. I like that little kids come up to me and want to imitate me. It's an honor, actually."

> *Schwikert's longtime coach, Cassie Rice, praises her discipline and work ethic: "[There are] a lot of kids who show potential when they're young, but when they're older they get interested in boys or other social activities and don't stay focused. Her dedication, drive, and parent support have helped her a lot. She knows that with gymnastics she gets to do different things so she's not worried about her social life. She's very disciplined. A lot of kids with the sniffles or who had too much homework would stay home and you can't argue against that. But Tasha shows up no matter what."*

HONORS AND AWARDS

U.S. Classic, All-Around Competition: 2nd, 1999; 1st, 2001
U.S. National Gymnastics Championships, All-Around Competition: 9th, 1999; 11th, 2000; 1st, 2001
Olympic Games, Team Competition: 4th, 2000
Pan American Games, All-Around Competition: 1st, 2001

World Gymnastics Championships, All-Around Competition: 5th, 2001
World Gymnastics Championships, Team Competition: 3rd, 2001

FURTHER READING

Periodicals

Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, Aug. 12, 2001, p.C21
Houston Chronicle, Aug. 6, 2001, p.5; Aug. 12, 2001, p.3
Las Vegas Review-Journal, May 8, 1997, p.C9; Feb. 13, 1999, p.AA11; Sep. 29, 1999, p.AA19; Mar. 22, 2000, p.AA16; May 21, 2000, p.K1; Aug. 19, 2000, p.AA15; Sep. 29, 2000, p.A1; Aug. 14, 2001, p.A1; Oct. 28, 2001, p.A29
Las Vegas Sun, Mar. 3, 2000, p.D3; Aug. 14, 2000, p.D1; Sep. 7, 2000, p.D1; Sep. 29, 2000, p.D1
Los Angeles Times, Sep. 15, 2000, p.U6
Miami Herald, Sep. 17, 2000, p.D2
New York Times, Sep. 20, 2000; Aug. 10, 2001, p.D2; Nov. 1, 2001, p.S7
Philadelphia Inquirer, Sep. 20, 2000, p.E1
Sports Illustrated, Sep. 17, 2001, p.92
Sports Illustrated Women, Jan. 1, 2001, p.92
USA Today, Aug. 17, 2000, p.C10; Aug. 10, 2001, p.C10

ADDRESS

USA Gymnastics
Pan American Plaza
201 South Capitol Avenue
Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46225

WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

http://www.tashaschwikert.com
http://www.usa-gymnastics.org
http://www.lvlife.com/Jan2001/tasha.html

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How to Use the Cumulative Index

Our indexes have a new look. In an effort to make our indexes easier to use, we've combined the Name and General Index into a new, cumulative General Index. This single ready-reference resource covers all the volumes in *Biography Today,* both the general series and the special subject series. The new General Index contains complete listings of all individuals who have appeared in *Biography Today* since the series began. Their names appear in bold-faced type, followed by the issue in which they appear. The General Index also includes references for the occupations, nationalities, and ethnic and minority origins of individuals profiled in *Biography Today*.

We have also made some changes to our specialty indexes, the Places of Birth Index and the Birthday Index. To consolidate and to save space, the Places of Birth Index and the Birthday Index will no longer appear in the January and April issues of the softbound subscription series. But these indexes can still be found in the September issue of the softbound subscription series, in the hardbound Annual Cumulation at the end of each year, and in each volume of the special subject series.

General Series

The General Series of *Biography Today* is denoted in the index with the month and year of the issue in which the individual appeared. Each individual also appears in the Annual Cumulation for that year.

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Earnhardt, Dale . . . . Apr 01
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Holdsclaw, Chamique . . . . Sep 00
Radcliffe, Daniel . . . . Jan 02
Roberts, Julia . . . . Sep 01
Rowling, J.K.. . . . . Sep 99; Update 00; Update 01
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Tucker, Chris . . . . Jan 01
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Special Subject Series

The Special Subject Series of *Biography Today* are each denoted in the index with an abbreviated form of the series name, plus the number of the volume in which the individual appears. They are listed as follows.

Adams, Ansel	Artist V.1	(Artists Series)
Anderson, Laurie Halse	Author V.11	(Author Series)
Collins, Francis	Science V.6	(Scientists & Inventors Series)
Iverson, Allen	Sport V.7	(Sports Series)
Peterson, Roger Tory	WorLdr V.1	(World Leaders Series: Environmental Leaders)
Sadat, Anwar	WorLdr V.2	(World Leaders Series: Modern African Leaders)
Wolf, Hazel	WorLdr V.3	(World Leaders Series: Environmental Leaders 2)

Updates

Updated information on selected individuals appears in the Appendix at the end of the *Biography Today* Annual Cumulation. In the index, the original entry is listed first, followed by any updates.

Arafat, Yasir . . . . Sep 94; Update 94; Update 95; Update 96; Update 97; Update 98; Update 00; Update 01
Gates, Bill . . . . Apr 93; Update 98; Update 00; Science V.5; Update 01
Griffith Joyner, Florence . . . . Sport V.1; Update 98
Sanders, Barry . . . . Sep 95; Update 99
Spock, Dr. Benjamin . . . . Sep 95; Update 98
Yeltsin, Boris . . . . Apr 92; Update 93; Update 95; Update 96; Update 98; Update 00

General Index

This index includes names, occupations, nationalities, and ethnic and minority origins that pertain to individuals profiled in *Biography Today*.

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  Alley, Kirstie . . . . Jul 92
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Carter, Chris – *Bellflower* . . . . . . Author V.4
Chastain, Brandi – *San Jose* . . . . . . Sport V.4
Coolio – *Los Angeles* . . . . Sep 96
Dakides, Tara – *Mission Viejo* . . . . Sport V.7
Davenport, Lindsay – *Palos Verdes* . . . . Sport V.5
DiCaprio, Leonardo – *Hollywood* . . . Apr 98
Dragila, Stacy – *Auburn* . . . . Sport V.6
Evans, Janet – *Fullerton* . . . . Jan 95
Fernandez, Lisa – *Long Beach* . . . . Sport V.5
Fielder, Cecil – *Los Angeles* . . . . Sep 93

Fields, Debbi – *East Oakland* . . . . Jan 96
Fossey, Dian – *San Francisco* . . . Science V.1
Garcia, Jerry – *San Francisco* . . . . Jan 96
Gilbert, Sara – *Santa Monica* . . . . Apr 93
Gordon, Jeff – *Vallejo* . . . . Apr 99
Griffith Joyner, Florence – *Los Angeles* . . . . Sport V.1
Hammer – *Oakland* . . . . Jan 92
Hanks, Tom – *Concord* . . . . Jan 96
Hawk, Tony – *San Diego* . . . . Apr 01
Jackson, Shirley – *San Francisco* . . Author V.6
Jobs, Steven – *San Francisco* . . . . Jan 92; Science V.5
Johnson, Johanna . . . . Apr 00
Jones, Marion – *Los Angeles* . . . . . . Sport V.5
Kistler, Darci – *Riverside* . . . . Jan 93
Kwan, Michelle –*Torrance* . . . . Sport V.3
LaDuke, Winona – *Los Angeles* . . WorLdr V.3
Lasseter, John – *Hollywood* . . . . Sep 00
Le Guin, Ursula K. – *Berkeley* . . . Author V.8
LeMond, Greg – *Los Angeles* . . . . . Sport V.1
Locklear, Heather – *Los Angeles* . . . . . Jan 95
Lucas, George – *Modesto* . . . . Apr 97
Mathison, Melissa . . . . Author V.4
McGwire, Mark – *Pomona* . . . . Jan 99
Moceanu, Dominique – *Hollywood* . . Jan 98
Nixon, Joan Lowery – *Los Angeles* . . . . Author V.1
Nixon, Richard – *Yorba Linda* . . . . . . Sep 94
Ochoa, Ellen – *Los Angeles* . . . . Apr 01
O'Dell, Scott – *Terminal Island* . . Author V.2
Oleynik, Larisa – *San Fancisco* . . . . . . Sep 96
Olsen, Ashley . . . . Sep 95
Olsen, Mary Kate . . . . Sep 95
Prinze, Freddie, Jr. – *Los Angeles* . . . Apr 00
Ride, Sally – *Encino* . . . . Jan 92
Runyan, Marla – *Santa Maria* . . . . . . Apr 02
Soto, Gary – *Fresno* . . . . Author V.5
Stachowski, Richie . . . . Science V.3
Swanson, Janese – *San Diego* . . . Science V.4
Tan, Amy – *Oakland* . . . . Author V.9
Thiessen, Tiffini-Amber – *Modesto* . . . Jan 96
Werbach, Adam – *Tarzana* . . . . WorLdr V.1
White, Jaleel – *Los Angeles* . . . . Jan 96
Williams, Venus – *Lynwood* . . . . Jan 99
Wilson, Mara – *Burbank* . . . . Jan 97
Woods, Tiger – *Long Beach* . . . . . . Sport V.1, Sport V.6
Wozniak, Steve – *San Jose* . . . . . Science V.5
Yamaguchi, Kristi – *Fremont* . . . . Apr 92
Yep, Laurence – *San Francisco* . . Author V.5

Canada

Blanchard, Rachel – *Toronto, Ontario* Apr 97
Campbell, Neve – *Toronto, Ontario* . . Apr 98
Candy, John – *Newmarket, Ontario* . . Sep 94
Carrey, Jim – *Newmarket, Ontario* . . . Apr 96
Dion, Celine – *Charlemagne, Quebec* . Sep 97
Gretzky, Wayne – *Brantford, Ontario* Jan 92
Howe, Gordie – *Floral, Saskatchewan* . . . . Sport V.2
Jennings, Peter – *Toronto, Ontario* . . . . Jul 92
Johnston, Lynn – *Collingwood, Ontario* . . . . Jan 99
Kielburger, Craig – *Toronto, Ontario* . . Jan 00
lang, k.d. – *Edmonton, Alberta* . . . . . . Sep 93
Lemieux, Mario – *Montreal, Quebec* . . Jul 92
Martin, Bernard – *Petty Harbor, Newfoundland* . . . . WorLdr V.3
Messier, Mark – *Edmonton, Alberta* . . Apr 96
Morissette, Alanis – *Ottawa, Ontario* Apr 97
Mowat, Farley – *Belleville, Ontario* . . . . Author V.8
Priestley, Jason – *Vancouver, British Columbia* . . . . Apr 92
Roy, Patrick – *Quebec City, Quebec* . . . . Sport V.7
Sakic, Joe – *Burnbary, British Columbia* . . . . Sport V.6
Shatner, William – *Montreal, Quebec* Apr 95
Twain, Shania – *Windsor, Ontario* . . . Apr 99
Vernon, Mike – *Calgary, Alberta* . . . . . Jan 98
Watson, Paul – *Toronto, Ontario* . . WorLdr V.1
Wolf, Hazel – *Victoria, British Columbia* . . . . WorLdr V.3
Yzerman, Steve – *Cranbrook, British Columbia* . . . . Sport V.2

China

Dai Qing – *Chongqing* . . . . WorLdr V.3
Fu Mingxia – *Wuhan* . . . . Sport V.5
Lucid, Shannon – *Shanghai* . . . . Science V.2
Paterson, Katherine – *Qing Jiang, Jiangsu* . . . . Author 97
Pei, I.M. – *Canton* . . . . Artist V.1
Wang, An – *Shanghai* . . . . Science V.2

Colorado

Allen, Tim – *Denver* . . . . Apr 94
Bryan, Zachery Ty – *Aurora* . . . . Jan 97
Dunlap, Alison – *Denver* . . . . Sport V.7
Handler, Ruth – *Denver* . . . . Apr 98

Stachowski, Richie – *Denver* . . . Science V.3
Toro, Natalia – *Boulder* . . . . Sep 99
Van Dyken, Amy – *Englewood* . . . Sport V.3
Connecticut
Brandis, Jonathan – *Danbury* . . . . Sep 95
Bush, George W. – *New Haven* . . . . . Sep 00
dePaola, Tomie – *Meriden* . . . . . Author V.5
Land, Edwin – *Bridgeport* . . . . . . Science V.1
Leibovitz, Annie – *Waterbury* . . . . . . Sep 96
Lobo, Rebecca – *Hartford* . . . . Sport V.3
McClintock, Barbara – *Hartford* . . . . . Oct 92
Spelman, Lucy – *Bridgeport* . . . . Science V.6
Spock, Benjamin – *New Haven* . . . . . Sep 95
Tarbox, Katie – *New Canaan* . . . Author V.10
Cuba
Castro, Fidel – *Mayari, Oriente* . . . . . . Jul 92
Estefan, Gloria – *Havana* . . . . Jul 92
Fuentes, Daisy – *Havana* . . . . Jan 94
Hernandez, Livan – *Villa Clara* . . . . . Apr 98
Zamora, Pedro . . . . Apr 95
Czechoslovakia
Albright, Madeleine – *Prague* . . . . . . Apr 97
Hasek, Dominik – *Pardubice* . . . . . Sport V.3
Hingis, Martina – *Kosice* . . . . Sport V.2
Jagr, Jaromir – *Kladno* . . . . Sport V.5
Navratilova, Martina – *Prague* . . . . . . Jan 93
Delaware
Heimlich, Henry – *Wilmington* . . Science V.6
Dominican Republic
Martinez, Pedro – *Manoguayabo* . . Sport V.5
Sosa, Sammy – *San Pedro de Macoris* . . Jan 99
Egypt
Arafat, Yasir – *Cairo* . . . . Sep 94
Boutros-Ghali, Boutros – *Cairo* . . . . . Apr 93
Sadat, Anwar – *Mit Abu al-Kum* . . . . WorLdr V.2
England
Almond, David – *Newcastle* . . . Author V.10
Amanpour, Christiane – *London* . . . . Jan 01
Attenborough, David – *London* . . Science V.4
Barton, Hazel – *Bristol* . . . . Science V.6
Diana, Princess of Wales – *Norfolk* . . Jul 92; Jan 98
Goodall, Jane – *London* . . . . Science V.1
Handford, Martin – *London* . . . . Jan 92
Hargreaves, Alison – *Belper* . . . . Jan 96
Hawking, Stephen – *Oxford* . . . . Apr 92
Herriot, James – *Sunderland* . . . . Author V.1
Jacques, Brian – *Liverpool* . . . . . . Author V.5
Leakey, Mary – *London* . . . . Science V.1
Macaulay, David – *Burton-on-Trent* . . . . Author V.2
Moore, Henry – *Castleford* . . . . Artist V.1
Pottter, Beatrix – *London* . . . . . . Author V.8
Pullman, Philip – *Norwich* . . . . . Author V.9
Radcliffe, Daniel – *London* . . . . Jan 02
Reid Banks, Lynne – *London* . . . Author V.2
Rennison, Louise – *Leeds* . . . . . Author V.10
Rowling, J. K. – *Bristol* . . . . Sep 99
Sacks, Oliver – *London* . . . . Science V.3
Stewart, Patrick – *Mirfield* . . . . Jan 94
Winslet, Kate – *Reading* . . . . Sep 98
Ethiopia
Haile Selassie – *Ejarsa Goro, Harar* . . . . WorLdr V.2
Roba, Fatuma – *Bokeji* . . . . Sport V.3
Florida
Carter, Vince – *Daytona Beach* . . . . Sport V.5
Dorough, Howie – *Orlando* . . . . Jan 00
Evert, Chris – *Ft. Lauderdale* . . . . . Sport V.1
Griese, Brian – *Miami* . . . . Jan 02
McLean, A.J. – *West Palm Beach* . . . . . Jan 00
Reno, Janet – *Miami* . . . . Sep 93
Richardson, Dot – *Orlando* . . . . . . Sport V.2
Robinson, David – *Key West* . . . . Sep 96
Sanders, Deion – *Ft. Myers* . . . . . . Sport V.1
Sapp, Warren – *Plymouth* . . . . Sport V.5
Smith, Emmitt – *Pensacola* . . . . Sep 94
Tarvin, Herbert – *Miami* . . . . Apr 97
France
Cousteau, Jacques – *St. Andre-de-Cubzac* . . . . Jan 93
Ma, Yo-Yo – *Paris* . . . . Jul 92
Georgia
Carter, Jimmy – *Plains* . . . . Apr 95
Grant, Amy – *Augusta* . . . . Jan 95
Hogan, Hulk – *Augusta* . . . . Apr 92
Johns, Jasper – *Augusta* . . . . Artist V.1
Lee, Spike – *Atlanta* . . . . Apr 92
Roberts, Julia – *Atlanta* . . . . Sep 01
Robinson, Jackie – *Cairo* . . . . Sport V.3
Rowland, Kelly – *Atlanta* . . . . Apr 01
Thomas, Clarence – *Pin Point* . . . . Jan 92
Tucker, Chris – *Decatur* . . . . Jan 01
Ward, Charlie – *Thomasville* . . . . Apr 94
Germany
Bethe, Hans A. – *Strassburg* . . . . Science V.3
Frank, Anne – *Frankfort* . . . . Author V.4
Galdikas, Biruté – *Wiesbaden* . . . Science V.4
Graf, Steffi – *Mannheim* . . . . Jan 92
Pippig, Uta – *Berlin* . . . . Sport V.1

Ghana
Annan, Kofi – *Kumasi* . . . . Jan 98
Nkrumah, Kwame – *Nkrofro*. . . WorLdr V.2
Guatemala
Menchu, Rigoberta – *Chimel, El Quiche* . . . . Jan 93
Haiti
Aristide, Jean-Bertrand – *Port-Salut*. . . Jan 95
Hawaii
Case, Steve – *Honolulu* . . . . Science V.5
Lowry, Lois – *Honolulu* . . . . Author V.4
Nakamura, Leanne – *Honolulu* . . . . . Apr 02
Tuttle, Merlin – *Honolulu* . . . . Apr 97
Holland
Lionni, Leo – *Watergraafsmeer* . . . . Author V.6
Hungary
Erdös, Paul – *Budapest* . . . . Science V.2
Idaho
Street, Picabo – *Triumph* . . . . Sport V.3
Illinois
Anderson, Gillian – *Chicago*. . . . . Jan 97
Bauer, Joan – *River Forest* . . . . . Author V.10
Blackmun, Harry – *Nashville* . . . . Jan 00
Boyd, Candy Dawson – *Chicago*. Author V.3
Bradbury, Ray – *Waukegan* . . . . . Author V.3
Clinton, Hillary Rodham – *Chicago* . . Apr 93
Crawford, Cindy – *De Kalb* . . . . Apr 93
Crichton, Michael – *Chicago*. . . . Author V.5
Cushman, Karen – *Chicago* . . . . Author V.5
Garth, Jennie – *Urbana* . . . . Apr 96
Ford, Harrison – *Chicago* . . . . Sep 97
Hansberry, Lorraine – *Chicago*. . Author V.5
Joyner-Kersee, Jackie – *East St. Louis*. . . . . Oct 92
Margulis, Lynn – *Chicago*. . . . . Sep 96
McCully, Emily Arnold – *Galesburg* . . Jul 92
McGruder, Aaron – *Chicago* . . . Author V.10
Peck, Richard – *Decatur* . . . . . . Author V.10
Silverstein, Shel – *Chicago* . . . . . Author V.3
Siskel, Gene – *Chicago* . . . . Sep 99
Van Draanen, Wendelin – *Chicago* . . . . Author V.11
Watson, James D. – *Chicago* . . . Science V.1
Williams, Michelle – *Rockford* . . . . . . Apr 01
Wrede, Patricia C. – *Chicago* . . . Author V.7
Indiana
Bird, Larry – *West Baden* . . . . Jan 92
Davis, Jim – *Marion*. . . . . Author V.1
Letterman, David – *Indianapolis*. . . . . Jan 95
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds – *Anderson* Apr 93
Pauley, Jane – *Indianapolis* . . . . Oct 92
Peet, Bill – *Grandview* . . . . Author V.4
Vonnegut, Kurt – *Indianapolis* . . Author V.1
Iowa
Leopold, Aldo – *Burlington* . . . . WorLdr V.3
Warner, Kurt – *Burlington* . . . . Sport V.4
Wood, Elijah – *Cedar Rapids* . . . . Apr 02
Iraq
Hussein, Saddam – *al-Auja* . . . . Jul 92
Ireland, Northern
Lewis, C. S. – *Belfast* . . . . Author V.3
Ireland, Republic of
Flannery, Sarah – *Blarney, County Cork* . . . . Science V.5
Robinson, Mary – *Ballina* . . . . Sep 93
Israel
Perlman, Itzhak – *Tel Aviv* . . . . Jan 95
Portman, Natalie – *Jerusalem* . . . . Sep 99
Rabin, Yitzhak – *Jerusalem* . . . . Oct 92
Italy
Andretti, Mario – *Montona*. . . . . Sep 94
Krim, Mathilde – *Como* . . . . Science V.1
Levi-Montalcini, Rita – *Turin* . . Science V.1
Jamaica
Ashley, Maurice – *St. Andrew* . . . . . . Sep 99
Bailey, Donovan – *Manchester* . . . Sport V.2
Denton, Sandi – *Kingston*. . . . . Apr 95
Ewing, Patrick – *Kingston* . . . . Jan 95
Maxwell, Jody-Anne – *St. Andrew* . . Sep 98
Japan
Miyamoto, Shigeru – *Sonobe* . . . Science V.5
Morita, Akio – *Kasugaya* . . . . . . Science V.4
Suzuki, Shinichi – *Nagoya* . . . . Sep 98
Uchida, Mitsuko – *Tokyo* . . . . Apr 99
Jordan
Hussein, King – *Amman*. . . . . Apr 99
Kansas
Alley, Kirstie – *Wichita* . . . . Jul 92
Ballard, Robert – *Wichita* . . . . . . Science V.4
Brooks, Gwendolyn – *Topeka*. . . Author V.3
Dole, Bob – *Russell*. . . . . Jan 96
Parks, Gordon – *Fort Scott*. . . . . . . Artist V.1
Patrick, Ruth . . . . Science V.3
Probst, Jeff – *Wichita* . . . . Jan 01
Sanders, Barry – *Wichita* . . . . Sep 95
Stiles, Jackie – *Kansas City*. . . . . . . Sport V.6
Kentucky
Ali, Muhammad – *Louisville* . . . . . Sport V.2
Littrell, Brian – *Lexington*. . . . . Jan 00

Monroe, Bill – *Rosine* .... Sep 97
Morgan, Garrett – *Paris* .... Science V.2
Richardson, Kevin – *Lexington* ...... Jan 00

Kenya

Leakey, Louis – *Nairobi* .... Science V.1
Kenyatta, Jomo – *Ngenda* ..... WorLdr V.2
Maathai, Wangari – *Nyeri* ..... WorLdr V.1
Ndeti, Cosmas – *Machakos* .... Sep 95

Liberia

Tubman, William V. S. – *Harper City* .... WorLdr V.2

Libya

Qaddafi, Muammar .... Apr 97

Louisiana

Dumars, Joe – *Natchitoches* ...... Sport V.3
Gumbel, Bryant – *New Orleans* ..... Apr 97
Manning, Peyton – *New Orleans* .... Sep 00
Marsalis, Wynton – *New Orleans* ... Apr 92
Rice, Anne – *New Orleans* ...... Author V.3
Roberts, Cokie – *New Orleans* ...... Apr 95
Spears, Britney – *Kentwood* .... Jan 01
Stewart, Kordell – *Marrero* .... Sep 98

Macedonia

Teresa, Mother – *Skopje* .... Apr 98

Maine

King, Stephen – *Portland* ...... Author V.1

Malawi

Banda, Hastings Kamuzu – *Chiwengo, Nyasaland* ..... WorLdr V.2

Maryland

Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia – *Silver Spring* .... Author V.8
Collier, Bryan – *Salisbury* ..... Author V.11
Hesse, Karen – *Baltimore* ...... Author V.5
Marshall, Thurgood – *Baltimore* ..... Jan 92
Ripken, Cal, Jr. – *Havre de Grace* .. Sport V.1
Sleator, William – *Havre de Grace* .... Author V.11
Stepanek, Mattie – *Upper Marlboro* .. Apr 02

Massachusetts

Bush, George – *Milton* .... Jan 92
Butcher, Susan – *Cambridge* ..... Sport V.1
Caplan, Arthur – *Boston* .... Science V.6
Cormier, Robert – *Leominister* .. Author V.1
Fanning, Shawn – *Brockton* .... Science V.5
Gilbert, Walter – *Cambridge* .... Science V.2
Grandin, Temple – *Boston* ..... Science V.3
Guey, Wendy – *Boston* .... Sep 96
Guy, Jasmine – *Boston* .... Sep 93
Kerrigan, Nancy – *Woburn* .... Apr 94
Krakauer, Jon – *Brookline* ...... Author V.6
Meltzer, Milton – *Worcester* ... Author V.11
Pine, Elizabeth Michele – *Boston* .... Jan 94
Scarry, Richard – *Boston* .... Sep 94
Seuss, Dr. – *Springfield* .... Jan 92
Sones, Sonya – *Boston* .... Author V.11
Speare, Elizabeth George – *Melrose* .... Sep 95
Thompson, Jenny – *Georgetown* .. Sport V.5
Voigt, Cynthia – *Boston* .... Oct 92
Walters, Barbara – *Boston* .... Sep 94

Mexico

Rivera, Diego – *Guanajuato* ...... Artist V.1

Michigan

Applegate, K.A. .... Jan 00
Askins, Renee .... WorLdr V.1
Canady, Alexa – *Lansing* ...... Science V.6
Carson, Ben – *Detroit* .... Science V.4
Curtis, Christopher Paul – *Flint* Author V.4
Galeczka, Chris – *Sterling Heights* ... Apr 96
Johnson, Magic – *Lansing* .... Apr 92
Kiraly, Karch – *Jackson* .... Sport V.4
Krone, Julie – *Benton Harbor* .... Jan 95
Lalas, Alexi – *Royal Oak* .... Sep 94
Mohajer, Dineh – *Bloomfield Hills* ... Jan 02
Riley, Dawn – *Detroit* .... Sport V.4
Scieszka, Jon – *Flint* .... Author V.9
Shabazz, Betty – *Detroit* .... Apr 98
Small, David – *Detroit* .... Author V.10
Van Allsburg, Chris – *Grand Rapids* .. Apr 92
Ward, Lloyd D. – *Romulus* .... Jan 01
Webb, Alan – *Ann Arbor* .... Sep 01
Williams, Serena – *Saginaw* ..... Sport V.4
Winans, CeCe – *Detroit* .... Apr 00

Minnesota

Burger, Warren – *St. Paul* .... Sep 95
Douglas, Marjory Stoneman – *Minneapolis* .... WorLdr V.1
Madden, John – *Austin* .... Sep 97
Mars, Forrest, Sr. – *Minneapolis* Science V.4
Murie, Olaus J. .... WorLdr V.1
Paulsen, Gary – *Minneapolis* ... Author V.1
Ryder, Winona – *Winona* .... Jan 93
Schulz, Charles – *Minneapolis* .. Author V.2
Scurry, Briana – *Minneapolis* .... Jan 00
Ventura, Jesse – *Minneapolis* .... Apr 99
Weinke, Chris – *St. Paul* .... Apr 01
Winfield, Dave – *St. Paul* .... Jan 93

Mississippi

Bass, Lance – *Clinton* .... Jan 01
Brandy – *McComb* .... Apr 96

Favre, Brett – *Gulfport* .... Sport V.2
Hill, Faith – *Jackson* .... Sep 01
Jones, James Earl – *Arkabutla Township* .... Jan 95
McCarty, Oseola – *Wayne County* ... Jan 99
Payton, Walter – *Columbia* .... Jan 00
Rice, Jerry – *Crawford* .... Apr 93
Rimes, LeAnn – *Jackson* .... Jan 98
Taylor, Mildred D. – *Jackson* .... Author V.1
Winfrey, Oprah – *Kosciusko* .... Apr 92
Wright, Richard – *Natchez* ..... Author V.5

Missouri
Angelou, Maya – *St. Louis* .... Apr 93
Champagne, Larry III – *St. Louis* .... Apr 96
Goodman, John – *Affton* .... Sep 95
Heinlein, Robert – *Butler* ...... Author V.4
Hughes, Langston – *Joplin* ..... Author V.7
Lester, Julius – *St. Louis* .... Author V.7
Limbaugh, Rush – *Cape Girardeau* .. Sep 95
Miller, Shannon – *Rolla* .... Sep 94
Nye, Naomi Shihab – *St. Louis* .. Author V.8

Montana
Carvey, Dana – *Missoula* .... Jan 93
Horner, Jack – *Shelby* .... Science V.1
Lowe, Alex – *Missoula* .... Sport V.4

Morocco
Hassan II – *Rabat* .... WorLdr V.2

Myanmar
see Burma

Nebraska
Cheney, Dick – *Lincoln* .... Jan 02

Nevada
Agassi, Andre – *Las Vegas* .... Jul 92
Schwikert, Tasha – *Las Vegas* .... Sport V.7

New Hampshire
Zirkle, Aliy – *Manchester* .... Sport V.6

New Jersey
Blume, Judy .... Jan 92
Carpenter, Mary Chapin – *Princeton* .... Sep 94
Earle, Sylvia – *Gibbstown* ...... Science V.1
Glover, Savion – *Newark* .... Apr 99
Gwaltney, John Langston – *Orange* .... Science V.3
Hill, Lauryn – *South Orange* .... Sep 99
Houston, Whitney – *Newark* .... Sep 94
Ice-T – *Newark* .... Apr 93
Jeter, Derek – *Pequannock* .... Sport V.4
Lawrence, Jacob – *Atlantic City* .. Artist V.1
Love, Susan – *Long Branch* .... Science V.3
Martin, Ann M. – *Princeton* .... Jan 92
Muniz, Frankie – *Ridgewood* .... Jan 01
O'Neal, Shaquille – *Newark* .... Sep 93
Pinsky, Robert – *Long Branch* .. Author V.7
Queen Latifah – *Newark* .... Apr 92
Rodman, Dennis – *Trenton* .... Apr 96
Schwarzkopf, H. Norman – *Trenton* .. Jan 92
Sinatra, Frank – *Hoboken* .... Jan 99
Thomas, Dave – *Atlantic City* ...... Apr 96

New Mexico
Bezos, Jeff – *Albuquerque* .... Apr 01
Foreman, Dave – *Albuquerque* ... WorLdr V.1
Villa-Komaroff, Lydia – *Las Vegas* .... Science V.6

New York State
Aaliyah – *Brooklyn* .... Jan 02
Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem – *New York City* .... Sport V.1
Abzug, Bella – *Bronx* .... Sep 98
Aguilera, Christina – *Staten Island* .. Apr 00
Anderson, Laurie Halse – *Potsdam* .... Author V.11
Avi – *New York City* .... Jan 93
Baldwin, James – *New York City* .... Author V.2
Bennett, Cherie – *Buffalo* ...... Author V.9
Blair, Bonnie – *Cornwall* .... Apr 94
Blige, Mary J. – *Yonkers* .... Apr 02
Bourke-White, Margaret – *New York City* .... Artist V.1
Brody, Jane – *Brooklyn* .... Science V.2
Burke, Chris – *New York City* ...... Sep 93
Burns, Ken – *Brooklyn* .... Jan 95
Bush, Barbara – *New York City* ...... Jan 92
Calderone, Mary S. – *New York City* .... Science V.3
Capriati, Jennifer – *Long Island* ... Sport V.6
Carey, Mariah – *New York City* ..... Apr 96
Carle, Eric – *Syracuse* .... Author V.1
Carter, Nick – *Jamestown* .... Jan 00
Cohen, Adam Ezra – *New York City* Apr 97
Collins, Eileen – *Elmira* .... Science V.4
Combs, Sean (Puff Daddy) – *New York City* .... Apr 98
Cooney, Barbara – *Brooklyn* .... Author V.8
Cooney, Caroline B. – *Geneva* ... Author V.4
Coville, Bruce – *Syracuse* .... Author V.9
Cronin, John – *Yonkers* .... WorLdr V.3
Culkin, Macaulay – *New York City* .. Sep 93
Danes, Claire – *New York City* ...... Sep 97
de Mille, Agnes – *New York City* .... Jan 95
Duchovny, David – *New York City* .. Apr 96

Elion, Gertrude – *New York City* .... Science V.6
Farrakhan, Louis – *Bronx* .... Jan 97
Fatone, Joey – *Brooklyn* .... Jan 01
Frankenthaler, Helen – *New York City* .... Artist V.1
Gellar, Sarah Michelle – *New York City* .... Jan 99
Giff, Patricia Reilly – *Queens* .... Author V.7
Ginsburg, Ruth Bader – *Brooklyn* .... Jan 94
Goldberg, Whoopi – *New York City* .... Apr 94
Gould, Stephen Jay – *New York City* .... Science V.2
Haley, Alex – *Ithaca* .... Apr 92
Hart, Melissa Joan – *Smithtown* ..... Jan 94
Healy, Bernadine – *Queens* .... Science V.1
Holdsclaw, Chamique – *Queens* ..... Sep 00
Hopper, Grace Murray – *New York City* .... Science V.5
James, Cheryl – *New York City* ..... Apr 95
Jordan, Michael – *Brooklyn* .... Jan 92
Kamler, Kenneth – *New York City* .... Science V.6
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1	Salinger, J.D.	1919
2	Asimov, Isaac	1920
3	Tolkien, J.R.R.	1892
4	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	1933
	Runyan, Marla	1969
	Shula, Don	1930
6	Van Draanen, Wendelin	?
7	Hurston, Zora Neale	?1891
	Rodriguez, Eloy	1947
8	Hawking, Stephen W.	1942
	Spelman, Lucy	1963
9	Garcia, Sergio	1980
	McLean, A.J.	1978
	Menchu, Rigoberta	1959
	Nixon, Richard	1913
11	Leopold, Aldo	1887
12	Amanpour, Christiane	1958
	Bezos, Jeff	1964
	Lasseter, John	?1957
	Limbaugh, Rush	1951
13	Webb, Alan	1983
14	Lucid, Shannon	1943
15	Werbach, Adam	1973
16	Aaliyah	1979
	Fossey, Dian	1932
17	Carrey, Jim	1962
	Cormier, Robert	1925
	Jones, James Earl	1931
	Lewis, Shari	?1934
	Tartakovsky, Genndy	1970
18	Ali, Muhammad	1942
	Messier, Mark	1961
19	Askins, Renee	1959
	Johnson, John	1918
21	Domingo, Placido	1941
	Nicklaus, Jack	1940
	Olajuwon, Hakeem	1963
22	Chavis, Benjamin	1948
	Ward, Lloyd D.	1949
23	Elion, Gertrude	1918
	Thiessen, Tiffani-Amber	1974
24	Haddock, Doris (Granny D)	1910
25	Alley, Kirstie	1955
26	Carter, Vince	1977
	Morita, Akio	1921
	Siskel, Gene	1946
	Tarbox, Katie	1982
27	Lester, Julius	1939
28	Carter, Nick	1980
	Fatone, Joey	1977
	Gretzky, Wayne	1961
	Wood, Elijah	1981
29	Abbey, Edward	1927
	Gilbert, Sara	1975
	Hasek, Dominik	1965
	Peet, Bill	1915
	Winfrey, Oprah	1954
30	Alexander, Lloyd	1924
	Cheney, Dick	1941
	Engelbart, Douglas	1925
31	Collier, Bryan	1967
	Flannery, Sarah	1982
	Robinson, Jackie	1919
	Ryan, Nolan	1947
	Timberlake, Justin	1981

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1	Hughes, Langston	1902
	Spinelli, Jerry	1941
	Yeltsin, Boris	1931
3	Heimlich, Henry	1920
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	1927
	Rockwell, Norman	1894
4	Parks, Rosa	1913
5	Aaron, Hank	1934
6	Leakey, Mary	1913
	Rosa, Emily	1987
	Zmeskal, Kim	1976
7	Brooks, Garth	1962
	Wang, An	1920
	Wilder, Laura Ingalls	1867
8	Grisham, John	1955
9	Love, Susan	1948

	February (continued)	Year
10	Konigsburg, E.L.	1930
	Norman, Greg	1955
11	Aniston, Jennifer	1969
	Brandy	1979
	Rowland, Kelly	1981
	Yolen, Jane	1939
12	Blume, Judy	1938
	Kurzweil, Raymond	1948
	Small, David	1945
	Woodson, Jacqueline	?1964
13	Moss, Randy	1977
	Sleator, William	1945
15	Groening, Matt	1954
	Jagr, Jaromir	1972
	Sones, Sonya	1952
	Van Dyken, Amy	1973
16	Freeman, Cathy	1973
17	Anderson, Marian	1897
	Hargreaves, Alison	1962
	Jordan, Michael	1963
18	Morrison, Toni	1931
19	Tan, Amy	1952
20	Adams, Ansel	1902
	Barkley, Charles	1963
	Cobain, Kurt	1967
	Crawford, Cindy	1966
	Hernandez, Livan	1975
	Littrell, Brian	1975
21	Carpenter, Mary Chapin	1958
	Hewitt, Jennifer Love	1979
	Jordan, Barbara	1936
	Mugabe, Robert	1924
22	Barrymore, Drew	1975
	Fernandez, Lisa	1971
24	Jobs, Steven	1955
	Vernon, Mike	1963
	Whitestone, Heather	1973
25	Voigt, Cynthia	1942
26	Thompson, Jenny	1973
27	Clinton, Chelsea	1980
	Hunter-Gault, Charlayne	1942
28	Andretti, Mario	1940
	Pauling, Linus	1901

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1	Ellison, Ralph Waldo	1914
	Murie, Olaus J.	1889
	Rabin, Yitzhak	1922
	Zamora, Pedro	1972
2	Gorbachev, Mikhail	1931
	Satcher, David	1941
	Seuss, Dr.	1904
3	Hooper, Geoff	1979
	Joyner-Kersee, Jackie	1962
	MacLachlan, Patricia	1938
4	Armstrong, Robb	1962
	Morgan, Garrett	1877
5	Margulis, Lynn	1938
6	Ashley, Maurice	1966
7	McCarty, Oseola	1908
8	Prinze, Freddie Jr.	1976
10	Guy, Jasmine	1964
	Miller, Shannon	1977
	Wolf, Hazel	1898
12	Hamilton, Virginia	1936
	Nye, Naomi Shihab	1952
13	Van Meter, Vicki	1982
14	Dayne, Ron	1977
	Hanson, Taylor	1983
	Williamson, Kevin	1965
15	Ginsburg, Ruth Bader	1933
	White, Ruth	1942
16	O'Neal, Shaquille	1972
17	Hamm, Mia	1972
	Nureyev, Rudolf	1938
18	Blair, Bonnie	1964
	de Klerk, F.W.	1936
	Griese, Brian	1975
	Queen Latifah	1970
19	Blanchard, Rachel	1976
20	Lee, Spike	1957
	Lowry, Lois	1937
	Sachar, Louis	1954
21	Gilbert, Walter	1932
	O'Donnell, Rosie	1962
22	Shatner, William	1931
24	Manning, Peyton	1976
25	Dragila, Stacy	1971
	Franklin, Aretha	1942
	Lovell, Jim	1928
	Steinem, Gloria	1934
	Swoopes, Sheryl	1971
26	Allen, Marcus	1960
	Erdös, Paul	1913
	O'Connor, Sandra Day	1930
	Stockton, John	1962
27	Carey, Mariah	1970
	Wrede, Patricia C.	1953
28	James, Cheryl	
	McEntire, Reba	1955
	Tompkins, Douglas	1943

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29	Capriati, Jennifer	1976
30	Dion, Celine	1968
	Hammer	1933
31	Caplan, Arthur	1950
	Chavez, Cesar	1927
	Gore, Al	1948
	Howe, Gordie	1928

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1	Maathai, Wangari	1940
2	Carvey, Dana	1955
3	Garth, Jennie	1972
	Goodall, Jane	1934
	Street, Picabo	1971
4	Angelou, Maya	1928
5	Peck, Richard	1934
	Powell, Colin	1937
6	Watson, James D.	1928
7	Douglas, Marjory Stoneman	1890
8	Annan, Kofi	1938
9	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	1964
10	Madden, John	1936
12	Cleary, Beverly	1916
	Danes, Claire	1979
	Doherty, Shannen	1971
	Hawk, Tony	1968
	Letterman, David	1947
	Soto, Gary	1952
13	Brandis, Jonathan	1976
	Henry, Marguerite	1902
14	Collins, Francis	1950
	Gellar, Sarah Michelle	1977
	Maddux, Greg	1966
	Rose, Pete	1941
15	Martin, Bernard	1954
16	Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem	1947
	Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia	1984
	Selena	1971
	Williams, Garth	1912
17	Champagne, Larry III	1985
18	Hart, Melissa Joan	1976
20	Brundtland, Gro Harlem	1939
21	Muir, John	1838
22	Levi-Montalcini, Rita	1909
	Oppenheimer, J. Robert	1904
25	Fitzgerald, Ella	1917
26	Giff, Patricia Reilly	1935
	Pei, I.M.	1917
27	Wilson, August	1945
28	Alba, Jessica	1981
	Baker, James	1930
	Duncan, Lois	1934
	Hussein, Saddam	1937
	Kaunda, Kenneth	1924
	Lee, Harper	1926
	Leno, Jay	1950
29	Agassi, Andre	1970
	Earnhardt, Dale	1951
	Seinfeld, Jerry	1954

May		**Year**
2	Spock, Benjamin	1903
4	Bass, Lance	1979
5	Lionni, Leo	1910
	Maxwell, Jody-Anne	1986
	Opdyke, Irene Gut	1922
	Strasser, Todd	1950
7	Land, Edwin	1909
8	Attenborough, David	1926
	Meltzer, Milton	1915
9	Bergen, Candice	1946
	Yzerman, Steve	1965
10	Cooney, Caroline B.	1947
	Curtis, Christopher Paul	1953
	Galdikas, Biruté	1946
	Jamison, Judith	1944
	Ochoa, Ellen	1958
11	Farrakhan, Louis	1933
12	Mowat, Farley	1921
13	Pascal, Francine	1938
	Rodman, Dennis	1961
14	Lucas, George	1944
	Smith, Emmitt	1969
15	Albright, Madeleine	1937
	Almond, David	1951
	Johns, Jasper	1930
	Zindel, Paul	1936
16	Coville, Bruce	1950
17	Paulsen, Gary	1939
18	John Paul II	1920
19	Brody, Jane	1941
	Garnett, Kevin	1976
	Hansberry, Lorraine	1930
21	Robinson, Mary	1944
23	Bardeen, John	1908
	Jewel	1974
	O'Dell, Scott	1898
24	Dumars, Joe	1963
	Gilman, Billy	1988
26	Hill, Lauryn	1975
	Ride, Sally	1951
27	Carson, Rachel	1907
	Kerr, M.E.	1927

May (continued)		Year
28	Johnston, Lynn	1947
	Shabazz, Betty	1936
30	Cohen, Adam Ezra	1979
?	McGruder, Aaron	1974

June		Year
1	Lalas, Alexi	1970
	Morissette, Alanis	1974
4	Kistler, Darci	1964
	Nelson, Gaylord	1916
5	Scarry, Richard	1919
6	Rylant, Cynthia	1954
7	Brooks, Gwendolyn	1917
	Iverson, Allen	1975
	Oleynik, Larisa	1981
8	Bush, Barbara	1925
	Davenport, Lindsay	1976
	Edelman, Marian Wright	1939
8	Wayans, Keenen Ivory	1958
	Wright, Frank Lloyd	1869
9	Portman, Natalie	1981
10	Frank, Anne	1929
	Lipinski, Tara	1982
	Sendak, Maurice	1928
11	Cousteau, Jacques	1910
	Montana, Joe	1956
12	Bush, George	1924
13	Allen, Tim	1953
	Alvarez, Luis W.	1911
	Christo	1935
14	Bourke-White, Margaret	1904
	Graf, Steffi	1969
	Summitt, Pat	1952
	Yep, Laurence	1948
15	Horner, Jack	1946
	Jacques, Brian	1939
16	McClintock, Barbara	1902
	Shakur, Tupac	1971
17	Gingrich, Newt	1943
	Jansen, Dan	1965
	Williams, Venus	1980
18	Johnson, Angela	1961
	Morris, Nathan	1971
	Van Allsburg, Chris	1949
19	Abdul, Paula	1962
	Aung San Suu Kyi	1945
	Muldowney, Shirley	1940
20	Goodman, John	1952
21	Bhutto, Benazir	1953
	Breathed, Berke	1957
22	Bradley, Ed	1941
	Daly, Carson	1973
	Warner, Kurt	1971
23	Rudolph, Wilma	1940
	Thomas, Clarence	1948
25	Carle, Eric	1929
	Gibbs, Lois	1951
26	Harris, Bernard	1956
	Jeter, Derek	1974
	LeMond, Greg	1961
27	Babbitt, Bruce	1938
	Dunbar, Paul Laurence	1872
	Perot, H. Ross	1930
28	Elway, John	1960
30	Ballard, Robert	1942

July		Year
1	Brower, David	1912
	Calderone, Mary S.	1904
	Diana, Princess of Wales	1961
	Duke, David	1950
	Lewis, Carl	1961
	McCully, Emily Arnold	1939
2	Bethe, Hans A.	1906
	Gantos, Jack	1951
	George, Jean Craighead	1919
	Marshall, Thurgood	1908
	Petty, Richard	1937
	Thomas, Dave	1932
5	Watterson, Bill	1958
6	Bush, George W.	1946
	Dalai Lama	1935
	Dumitriu, Ioana	1976
7	Chagall, Marc	1887
	Heinlein, Robert	1907
	Kwan, Michelle	1980
	Sakic, Joe	1969
	Stachowski, Richie	1985
8	Hardaway, Anfernee "Penny"	1971
	Sealfon, Rebecca	1983
9	Farmer, Nancy	1941
	Hanks, Tom	1956
	Hassan II	1929
	Krim, Mathilde	1926
	Sacks, Oliver	1933
10	Ashe, Arthur	1943
	Boulmerka, Hassiba	1969
11	Cisneros, Henry	1947
	White, E.B.	1899

July (continued)		Year
12	Bauer, Joan	1951
	Cosby, Bill	1937
	Johnson, Johanna	1983
	Yamaguchi, Kristi	1972
13	Ford, Harrison	1942
	Stewart, Patrick	1940
15	Aristide, Jean-Bertrand	1953
	Ventura, Jesse	1951
16	Johnson, Jimmy	1943
	Sanders, Barry	1968
17	Stepanek, Mattie	1990
18	Glenn, John	1921
	Lemelson, Jerome	1923
	Mandela, Nelson	1918
19	Tarvin, Herbert	1985
20	Hillary, Sir Edmund	1919
21	Chastain, Brandi	1968
	Reno, Janet	1938
	Riley, Dawn	1964
	Williams, Robin	1952
22	Calder, Alexander	1898
	Dole, Bob	1923
	Hinton, S.E.	1948
23	Haile Selassie	1892
	Williams, Michelle	1980
24	Abzug, Bella	1920
	Krone, Julie	1963
	Lopez, Jennifer	1970
	Moss, Cynthia	1940
	Wilson, Mara	1987
25	Payton, Walter	1954
26	Berenstain, Jan	1923
27	Dunlap, Alison	1969
	Rodriguez, Alex	1975
28	Davis, Jim	1945
	Pottter, Beatrix	1866
29	Burns, Ken	1953
	Creech, Sharon	1945
	Dole, Elizabeth Hanford	1936
	Jennings, Peter	1938
	Morris, Wanya	1973
30	Hill, Anita	1956
	Moore, Henry	1898
	Schroeder, Pat	1940
31	Cronin, John	1950
	Radcliffe, Daniel	1989
	Reid Banks, Lynne	1929
	Rowling, J. K.	1965
	Weinke, Chris	1972

August		Year
1	Brown, Ron	1941
	Coolio	1963
	Garcia, Jerry	1942
2	Baldwin, James	1924
	Healy, Bernadine	1944
3	Brady, Tom	1977
	Roper, Dee Dee	?
	Savimbi, Jonas	1934
4	Gordon, Jeff	1971
5	Ewing, Patrick	1962
	Jackson, Shirley Ann	1946
6	Cooney, Barbara	1917
	Robinson, David	1965
	Warhol, Andy	?1928
7	Byars, Betsy	1928
	Duchovny, David	1960
	Leakey, Louis	1903
	Villa-Komaroff, Lydia	1947
8	Boyd, Candy Dawson	1946
	Chasez, JC	1976
9	Anderson, Gillian	1968
	Holdsclaw, Chamique	1977
	Houston, Whitney	1963
	McKissack, Patricia C.	1944
	Sanders, Deion	1967
	Travers, P.L.	?1899
11	Haley, Alex	1921
	Hogan, Hulk	1953
	Rowan, Carl T.	1925
	Wozniak, Steve	1950
12	Barton, Hazel	1971
	Martin, Ann M.	1955
	McKissack, Fredrick L.	1939
	Myers, Walter Dean	1937
	Sampras, Pete	1971
13	Battle, Kathleen	1948
	Castro, Fidel	1927
14	Berry, Halle	?1967
	Johnson, Magic	1959
	Larson, Gary	1950
15	Affleck, Benjamin	1972
	Ellerbee, Linda	1944
16	Fu Mingxia	1978
	Thampy, George	1987
18	Danziger, Paula	1944
	Murie, Margaret	1902
19	Clinton, Bill	1946
	Soren, Tabitha	1967

August (continued)		Year
20	Chung, Connie	1946
	Dakides, Tara	1975
	Milosevic, Slobodan	1941
21	Chamberlain, Wilt	1936
	Draper, Sharon	1952
	Toro, Natalia	1984
22	Bradbury, Ray	1920
	Dorough, Howie	1973
	Schwarzkopf, H. Norman	1934
23	Bryant, Kobe	1978
	Novello, Antonia	1944
	Phoenix, River	1970
24	Arafat, Yasir	1929
	Dai Qing	1941
	Ripken, Cal, Jr.	1960
25	Case, Steve	1958
26	Burke, Christopher	1965
	Culkin, Macaulay	1980
	Sabin, Albert	1906
	Teresa, Mother	1910
	Tuttle, Merlin	1941
27	Nechita, Alexandra	1985
	Rinaldi, Ann	1934
28	Dove, Rita	1952
	Evans, Janet	1971
	Peterson, Roger Tory	1908
	Priestley, Jason	1969
	Rimes, LeAnn	1982
	Twain, Shania	1965
29	Grandin, Temple	1947
	Hesse, Karen	1952
	McCain, John	1936
30	Earle, Sylvia	1935
31	Perlman, Itzhak	1945

September		Year
1	Estefan, Gloria	1958
	Guy, Rosa	1925
	Smyers, Karen	1961
2	Bearden, Romare	?1912
	Galeczka, Chris	1981
	Lisanti, Mariangela	1983
	Mohajer, Dineh	1972
3	Delany, Bessie	1891
4	Knowles, Beyoncé	1981
	Wright, Richard	1908
5	Guisewite, Cathy	1950
6	Fiorina, Carly	1954
7	Lawrence, Jacob	1917
	Moses, Grandma	1860
	Pippig, Uta	1965
	Scurry, Briana	1971
8	Prelutsky, Jack	1940
	Scieszka, Jon	1954
	Thomas, Jonathan Taylor	1982
10	Gould, Stephen Jay	1941
13	Johnson, Michael	1967
	Monroe, Bill	1911
	Taylor, Mildred D.	1943
14	Armstrong, William H.	1914
	Stanford, John	1938
15	dePaola, Tomie	1934
	Marino, Dan	1961
16	Dahl, Roald	1916
	Gates, Henry Louis, Jr.	1950
17	Burger, Warren	1907
18	Armstrong, Lance	1971
	Carson, Ben	1951
	de Mille, Agnes	1905
	Fields, Debbi	1956
	Nakamura, Leanne	1982
19	Delany, Sadie	1889
21	Fielder, Cecil	1963
	Hill, Faith	1967
	King, Stephen	1947
	Nkrumah, Kwame	1909
22	Richardson, Dot	1961
23	Nevelson, Louise	1899
24	George, Eddie	1973
	Ochoa, Severo	1905
25	Gwaltney, John Langston	1928
	Locklear, Heather	1961
	Lopez, Charlotte	1976
	Pinkney, Andrea Davis	1963
	Pippen, Scottie	1965
	Reeve, Christopher	1952
	Smith, Will	1968
	Walters, Barbara	1931
26	Mandela, Winnie	1934
	Stockman, Shawn	1972
	Williams, Serena	1981
27	Handford, Martin	1956
28	Cray, Seymour	1925
	Pak, Se Ri	1977
29	Berenstain, Stan	1923
	Guey, Wendy	1983
	Gumbel, Bryant	1948
30	Hingis, Martina	1980
	Moceanu, Dominique	1981

October		Year
1	Carter, Jimmy	1924
	McGwire, Mark	1963
2	Leibovitz, Annie	1949
3	Campbell, Neve	1973
	Herriot, James	1916
	Richardson, Kevin	1972
	Winfield, Dave	1951
4	Cushman, Karen	1941
	Kamler, Kenneth	1947
	Rice, Anne	1941
5	Fitzhugh, Louise	1928
	Hill, Grant	1972
	Lemieux, Mario	1965
	Lin, Maya	1959
	Roy, Patrick	1965
	Winslet, Kate	1975
6	Bennett, Cherie	1960
	Lobo, Rebecca	1973
7	Ma, Yo-Yo	1955
8	Jackson, Jesse	1941
	Ringgold, Faith	1930
	Stine, R.L.	1943
	Winans, CeCe	1964
9	Bryan, Zachery Ty	1981
	Senghor, Léopold Sédar	1906
	Sorenstam, Annika	1970
10	Favre, Brett	1969
	Saro-Wiwa, Ken	1941
11	Murray, Ty	1969
	Perry, Luke	?1964
	Young, Steve	1961
12	Childress, Alice	?1920
	Jones, Marion	1975
	Ward, Charlie	1970
13	Carter, Chris	1956
	Kerrigan, Nancy	1969
	Rice, Jerry	1962
14	Daniel, Beth	1956
	Mobutu Sese Seko	1930
15	Iacocca, Lee A.	1924
16	Stewart, Kordell	1972
17	Jemison, Mae	1956
	Kirkpatrick, Chris	1971
18	Foreman, Dave	1946
	Marsalis, Wynton	1961
	Navratilova, Martina	1956
	Suzuki, Shinichi	1898
19	Pullman, Philip	1946
20	Kenyatta, Jomo	?1891
	Mantle, Mickey	1931
	Pinsky, Robert	1940
21	Gillespie, Dizzy	1956
	Le Guin, Ursula K.	1929
22	Hanson, Zac	1985
23	Anderson, Laurie Halse	1961
	Crichton, Michael	1942
	Pelé	1940
25	Martinez, Pedro	1971
26	Clinton, Hillary Rodham	1947
27	Anderson, Terry	1947
28	Gates, Bill	1955
	Roberts, Julia	1967
	Salk, Jonas	1914
29	Ryder, Winona	1971
31	Candy, John	1950
	Paterson, Katherine	1932
	Pauley, Jane	1950
	Tucker, Chris	1973

November		Year
2	lang, k.d.	1961
3	Arnold, Roseanne	1952
	Ho, David	1952
	Kiraly, Karch	1960
4	Combs, Sean (Puff Daddy)	1969
	Handler, Ruth	1916
7	Canady, Alexa	1950
8	Mittermeier, Russell A.	1949
9	Denton, Sandi	
	Sagan, Carl	1934
10	Bates, Daisy	?1914
11	Blige, Mary J.	1971
	DiCaprio, Leonardo	1974
	Vonnegut, Kurt	1922
12	Andrews, Ned	1980
	Blackmun, Harry	1908
	Harding, Tonya	1970
	Sosa, Sammy	1968
13	Goldberg, Whoopi	1949
14	Boutros-Ghali, Boutros	1922
	Hussein, King	1935
	Rice, Condoleezza	1954
15	O'Keeffe, Georgia	1887
	Pinkwater, Daniel	1941
16	Baiul, Oksana	1977
	Miyamoto, Shigeru	1952
17	Fuentes, Daisy	1966
	Hanson, Ike	1980

	November (continued)	Year
18	Driscoll, Jean	1966
	Mankiller, Wilma	1945
19	Collins, Eileen	1956
	Devers, Gail	1966
	Glover, Savion	1973
	Strug, Kerri	1977
21	Aikman, Troy	1966
	Griffey, Ken, Jr.	1969
	Schwikert, Tasha	1984
	Speare, Elizabeth George	1908
24	Ndeti, Cosmas	1971
25	Grant, Amy	1960
	Thomas, Lewis	1913
26	Patrick, Ruth	1907
	Pine, Elizabeth Michele	1975
	Schulz, Charles	1922
27	Nye, Bill	1955
	White, Jaleel	1977
29	L'Engle, Madeleine	1918
	Lewis, C. S.	1898
	Tubman, William V. S.	1895
30	Jackson, Bo	1962
	Parks, Gordon	1912

	December	Year
2	Macaulay, David	1946
	Seles, Monica	1973
	Spears, Britney	1981
	Watson, Paul	1950
3	Kim Dae-jung	?1925
	Filipovic, Zlata	1980
5	Muniz, Frankie	1985
6	Risca, Viviana	1982
7	Bird, Larry	1956
8	Rivera, Diego	1886
9	Hopper, Grace Murray	1906
12	Bialik, Mayim	1975
	Frankenthaler, Helen	1928
	Sinatra, Frank	1915
13	Fedorov, Sergei	1969
14	Jackson, Shirley	1916
15	Aidid, Mohammed Farah	1934
	Mendes, Chico	1944
16	Bailey, Donovan	1967
	McCary, Michael	1971
	Mead, Margaret	1901
17	Kielburger, Craig	1982
18	Aguilera, Christina	1980
	Holmes, Katie	1978
	Pitt, Brad	1964
	Sanchez Vicario, Arantxa	1971
	Spielberg, Steven	1947
19	Morrison, Sam	1936
	Sapp, Warren	1972
	White, Reggie	1961
20	Uchida, Mitsuko	1948
	Zirkle, Aliy	1969
21	Evert, Chris	1954
	Griffith Joyner, Florence	1959
	Stiles, Jackie	1978
	Webb, Karrie	1974
22	Pinkney, Jerry	1939
23	Avi	1937
	Harbaugh, Jim	1963
	Lowman, Meg	1953
24	Lowe, Alex	1958
	Martin, Ricky	1971
25	Sadat, Anwar	1918
26	Butcher, Susan	1954
27	Roberts, Cokie	1943
28	Lee, Stan	1922
	Washington, Denzel	1954
30	Woods, Tiger	1975

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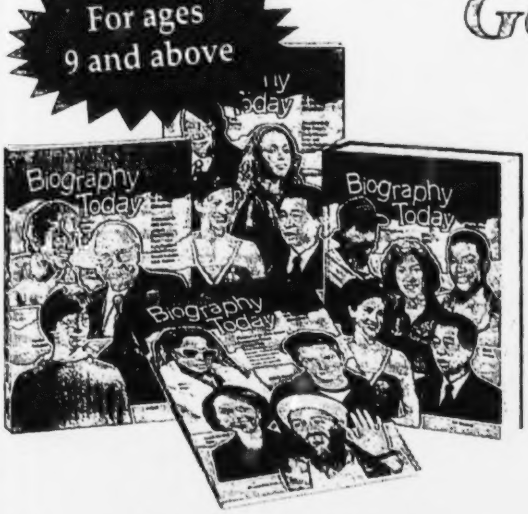
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Neve Campbell
Sean Combs (Puff Daddy)
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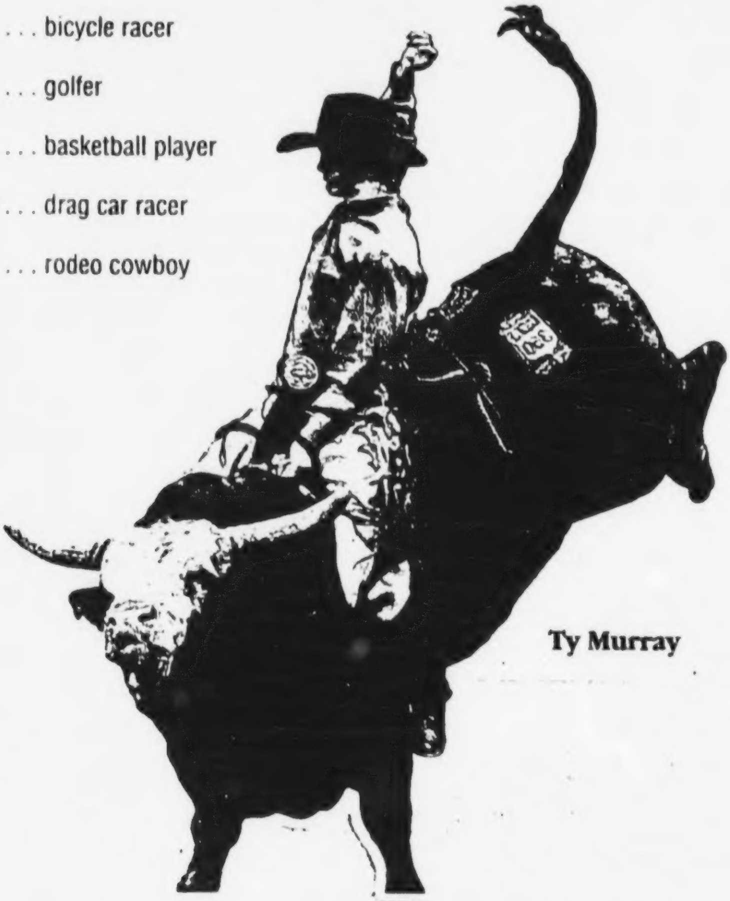

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